



Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy
MathStart®

A Fair Bear Share

Regrouping

Level 2, Ages 6+

“Storybooks that make
math fun!”

Learning how to regroup numbers is essential for solving more advanced addition problems.

Mama Bear wants to make her special Blue Ribbon Blueberry Pie, but it's up to her four cubs to gather enough nuts, berries and seeds. Three of the cubs go at it with gusto, adding up their treasures by arranging them in groups of tens and ones. But they don't have enough! Will their little sister—the one who spent the afternoon skipping, running and turning cartwheels—come through and save the day? Illustrated by John Speirs.

- With your child, or class, retell the story. On a piece of paper or on a blackboard draw three columns and label them “Nuts” “Berries” and “Seeds.” Use check marks to record the number of nuts, berries and seeds that the cubs have collected. Circle the groups of 10.
- Collect small objects as crayons, markers, buttons, shells at the beach, or leaves at the park. Group the objects by tens with ones left over, then add them up. How many are there?
- Walk around the neighborhood together, equipped with some paper and a marker. Keep track of the number of kids, trees, dogs or squirrels you see by creating a column for each subject category, then tallying using checks or dots. Circle each group of tens, then add up the tens and ones. How many are in each category? Try adding the category totals together. How many groups of ten are there altogether?

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