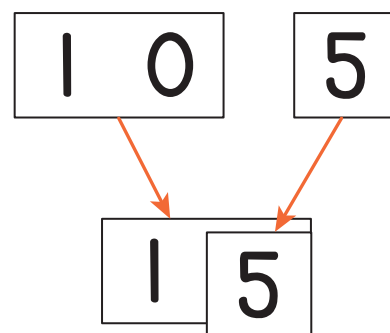# FAMILY MATH
Count and Write Teen Numbers

Dear Family,

Students develop an understanding of place value concepts as they count and write numbers 11–19. They discover that to write larger numbers, the digits 0–9 will be reused in different places, which affects the value they represent. Kindergarten students need to master a critical idea about the numbers 11–19: Each number is composed of 10 ones and some more ones. For example, students learn that in the number 15, the 1 represents a group of ten ones and the 5 represents 5 more ones. This understanding supports students' learning in future grades, when they use place value to add and subtract larger numbers.

Word We Are Learning

Ones

At-Home Activities

Activity Idea 1 Finding Ten

Help your child collect 11–20 small items, such as toy cars or pennies. Ask your child to count how many. Once they've found the total, invite them to find a group of 10. For example, "You counted 15 beans. Can you find a group of 10?"

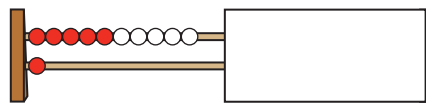For an additional challenge, ask your child to count again the Say Ten way.

Activity Idea 2 Show My Number

Cut out the attached numeral cards and gather a set of 20 small items. Invite your child to select a card and use the items to make a group to match the number on the card. For each round, challenge them to add or subtract items to match the new card. If your child needs additional support, invite them to create a group of 10 first.

The Challenge of Teen Numbers

The English words for numbers 11–19 make it challenging to understand that there are 10 ones in the number. It can often lead to students reversing digits when writing numerals. For example, **four**teen and 1**4**. As they hear "**four**teen" they may assume that the four comes first when writing.

Students practice Say Ten counting to highlight the ten inside the numbers 11–19. Say Ten counting refers to 11 as ten 1, 12 as ten 2, 13 as ten 3, and so on. For now, 20 is ten 10 the Say Ten way, as students are focused on teen numbers as 10 ones and some more ones. In first grade, students will begin to count twenty as 2 ten.

Ten 1

Other languages provide comparisons that support young students when learning to count. The Chinese language highlights the 10-group formation with a counting sequence that translates to ten 1 and ten 2, like Say Ten counting. In Spanish, the number sixteen is *diez y seis*, which translates to 10 and 6. Say Ten counting gives students an additional hint about the place value behind each digit.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20