

Dear Family,

Your child is now learning about subtraction. A common subtraction mistake is subtracting in the wrong direction. Children may think that they always subtract the smaller digit from the larger digit, but this is not true. To help children quoid this mistake, the



this is not true. To help children avoid this mistake, the *Math Expressions* program encourages children to "fix" numbers first and then subtract.

When one or more digits in the top number are smaller than the corresponding digits in the bottom number, fix the numbers by "ungrouping." For example, 1,634 - 158 is shown below:

 We cannot subtract 8 ones from 4 ones. We get more ones by ungrouping 1 ten to make 10 ones. 	2. We cannot subtract 5 tens from 2 tens. We get more tens by ungrouping 1 hundred to make 10 tens.	3. Now we can subtract: 1 - 0 = 1 thousand 5 - 1 = 4 hundreds 12 - 5 = 7 tens 14 - 8 = 6 ones
We now have 14 ones and only 2 tens. 2^{214}	We now have 12 tens and only 5 hundreds. $5 \frac{12}{2^{14}}$ 1,6 3 4	5 Z14 1,6∕3∕4∕
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>- 158</u> 1,476

In the method above, the numbers are ungrouped from right to left, but students can also ungroup from left to right. Children can choose whichever way works best for them.

Your child should also continue to practice multiplication and division skills at home.

If you have any questions or comments, please call or write me.

Sincerely, Your child's teacher



This unit includes the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Content for Number and Operations in Base Ten and Measurement and Data 4.NBT.3, 4.NBT.4, 4.MD.2 and all Mathematical Practices.

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