

Learning Activity for Take It Away **1st Grade**

Objective: The students will demonstrate an understanding of subtraction using counters.

Materials: 12-inch subtraction string (made with string, masking tape with a knot at one end), 12 straw pieces or macaroni per student, a number cube for each student

Take It Away!

When Mama bakes the whole house awakes,
To blue'berry muffins 12 to a pan
She turns her head, and here is my plan
I take one away when they're warm!
I take it away from 12 and there's 11
But Mama she smiles and says she's fine with 11
Then after school with Bobby and Bill
We eat up our fill of muffins and milk
Right off the tray, before we go play
3 muffins are missing and gone!
I take 'em away from 11, then there are 8 left
But Mama she smiles and says she's happy with 8 left
Then after dinner watching TV
With Mama and Dad, 2 brothers and me

She brings in the tray, before you say Hey
5 muffins are missing and gone
We take 'em away from 8, and then there are 3 left
But Mama she smiles and says she's happy with 3 left
Then bright and early when I come down
I go to the plate where muffins await
But 2 disappeared – there must be a mouse!
One muffin is left in the house!
I take it away and on the plate there are zero
But Mama will bake me more, my Mama's a hero!
When Mama bakes the whole house awakes,
To blue'berry muffins 12 to a pan
She turns her head, and here is my plan
I take one away when they're warm!

Procedure:

- 1) Play the song.
- 2) Teacher demonstrates how to put 12 pieces of straw or macaroni on the string. Teacher talks through the song to see what is happening.
- 3) Play the song again. This time take off as many pieces as muffins that were eaten in each situation. How many are left in the end?
- 4) Have students find the 5 subtraction equations that happen during the song. ($12-1=11$, $11-3=8$, $8-5=3$, $3-2=1$, $1-1=0$) Write them on a work mat.
- 5) Teacher demonstrates the Subtraction String game with a student. Begin with 12 straws on the string. Take turns rolling the die and taking off the number of straws as the number on the die. The winner is the player that takes off the last straw. If the roll is higher than the number of straws, then the turn is skipped.

Evaluation: Teacher observation during the play. Repeat the game 3 additional times and write on the work mat the subtraction equations for each roll of the die during the game. This will demonstrate the basic understanding of subtraction.