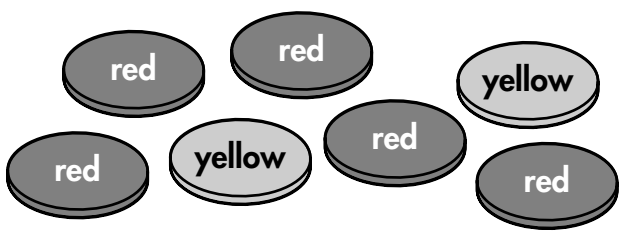
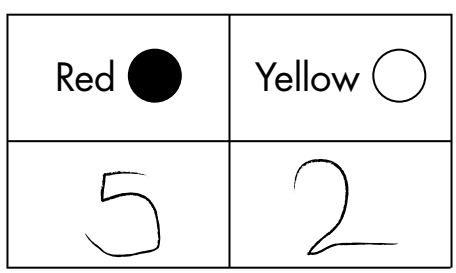
About the Mathematics in This Unit (page 1 of 2)

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in mathematics called *How Many Do You Have?* The focus of this unit is on combinations, counting, and addition and subtraction. Students find different ways to arrange and describe a set of tiles, record different ways a set of two-color counters can land, figure out how many blue and red crayons could be in a set of five crayons, and play a card game in which they look for combinations of cards that total six. All of these activities focus on the idea that one number can be broken up in many ways: 6 is 3 and 3 or 5 and 1 or 2 and 2 and 2. Students also count sets of up to 20 objects, and continue making sense of addition and subtraction through story problems and games that ask them to combine or separate small amounts.

Throughout this unit, students will be working toward these goals:

BENCHMARKS/GOALS	EXAMPLES
Write the numbers to 10.	How many are red? How many are yellow?  

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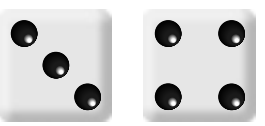
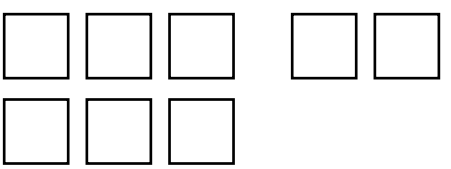
BENCHMARKS/GOALS	EXAMPLES
Count a set of up to 20 objects.	How many pennies are there? 
Combine two small quantities.	How many counters should Mia take?  Jack had 6 blocks. Carmen gave him 2 more. How many blocks did Jack have then? 

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities and discuss the underlying concepts. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

In the coming weeks, you will receive information about activities to do at home.