

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

Finds number bonds to 10 or 20 unreliable.

Needs to count on fingers to add simple numbers.

Forgets the effect of adding zero or reversing the order.

Struggles to carry digits or align numbers correctly.

Avoids mental addition or multi-step problems.

Loses place when adding across place value boundaries.

What you can try:

- Use concrete-pictorial-abstract (CPA) approach to build understanding.
- Teach number bonds through songs, games, and visuals.
- Encourage use of mental strategies before formal written methods.
- Model estimation and inverse checking to promote reasoning.
- Provide step-by-step scaffolds for column addition.
- Intervention focused on securing understanding of concepts and number relationships.
- Structured practice to build fluency and reduce cognitive load.
- Small-step teaching sequences with regular opportunities for review and consolidation.