

### What you might see:

You might see a child who:

Uses counting back for all subtraction, even simple facts.

Confuses add/subtract operations in mixed tasks.

Struggles to understand the inverse relationship with addition.

Finds it difficult to cross tens or hundreds of boundaries.

Unable to explain what subtraction (take away/difference).

Often makes place value or regrouping errors.

### What you can try:

- Use part-whole models and number lines to visualise subtraction.
- Model inverse relationships between addition and subtraction.
- Teach both “take away” and “difference” meanings explicitly.
- Provide structured practice with regrouping and crossing tens.
- Encourage checking strategies and discussion of methods used.
- 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.