## Missing Part Cards

The idea for these cards comes from an activity in John Van de Walle's book Teaching Student Centered Mathematics K-3. Missing Part Cards help develop Part-Part-Whole relationships. Typical Part-Part-Whole activities give children the two parts and ask them to find the whole, however, Missing Part Cards give the children the whole (the numeral) and one of the parts (as a dot pattern) and kids are asked to find the "missing part." Missing Part activities are more difficult than traditional part-part-whole activities because they help start the progression towards subtraction. We want children to relate these types of problems to addition when they first start out; what do I need to add to get me up to that total amount? The best way to learn subtraction facts is to relate them to addition facts.

How to use the cards:

- Each card has a numeral for the whole and a dot pattern for each part. Cover one of the dot patterns with a flap of paper (I use the small post-it notes so that I can easily change which part is covered).
- Have the child say the missing part that is covered up and/or the number sentence, i.e. "Eight is five and three" for an 8 card showing five dots and hiding three.
- Make sure to have the child explain how they knew the missing part.

Another activity, from Van de Walle's book, you can do with the cards is known as "I Wish I Had." You show the child the missing part card, say the amount of the dot pattern that is not covered up, and say that you wish you had the numeral. For example with the 8 card that has five dots showing and hiding three, you would say "I have 5; I wish I had 8...how many more do I need?"

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