Dear Families:

Today, we read the book, *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*. The concept of subtraction is explored throughout the book. Each time Pete the Cat lost a button on his shirt, we asked the children: “How many buttons are left?” We all had “buttons” (represented by colored dot stickers) on our shirts. Each time Pete the Cat lost a button, we did too.

You can easily reinforce our subtraction activities at home. Start out with no more than 10 objects and practice taking some of the objects away and asking your child: “How many objects are left?”

Once your child has correctly solved each math problem, restate the operation in numerical terms. Say: “I had 10 buttons on the table and I took four buttons away. How many buttons remain? So, 10 – 4 = 6.” It also helps if you write the number sentence down on a piece of paper, so that your child can connect the number sentence with the problem that he or she is solving.

Happy subtracting!