Dear Families:

This week, we looked at subtraction and “taking away” from a group of 10. We played the subtraction bowling game using 10 pins, keeping track of how many pins we knocked down and how many pins remained. We also explored all of the number combinations that make up 10, such as 4+6 and 7+3.

During the lesson, we used mathematical vocabulary words and concepts such as **take away**, **subtraction** and **how many**. From a given collection, we have been practicing “taking away” (subtracting) a given, smaller number of objects. For example, 10 pins minus two pins results in (equals) eight pins standing or remaining. The number sentence accompanies the operation that the children are recording on a separate recording sheet: 10-2=8.

This activity can easily be reinforced at home. Start out with no more than 10 objects and practice taking some of the objects away. Ask your child: “How many objects are left?” Once your child has correctly solved the 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?” Wait for your child to answer. Then say: “So, 10-4=6.” It also helps to write the number sentence down on a piece of paper so that your child can connect the number sentence with the problem being solved.

Happy subtracting!