

Year 6 Addition and Subtraction: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

What Is This Guide?

This step-by-step explanation to year 6 addition and subtraction can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when learning about year 6 addition and subtraction, either to support your child's homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. In this guide, you will find a step that matches your child's level of understanding and then have suggested activities which can be used to support that step.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

revise column addition and subtraction



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Addition and Subtraction

What Are Children Taught about Addition and Subtraction in Year 6?

By year 6, children will be expected to use formal methods of addition and subtraction to work out the answers to calculations which contain numbers with more than 4 digits (including decimal numbers). They may revise these methods if needed but this isn't the main focus of their learning. To help your child revise formal methods for addition and subtraction, try this **column addition poster** or this **column subtraction poster**.

In year 6, children will be expected to use their knowledge of addition and subtraction to:

- solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems.
- use estimation to check the answers to calculations.

This guide can help you support your child's learning of year 6 addition and subtraction at home. Each step contains an explanation for that stage and a link to an appropriate resource which can be used at home to support your child's learning.

As well as using the resources in this category, and the keyword searches to help your child with addition and subtraction, below are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child practise adding and subtracting at home.



Shopping

When out shopping, there are lots of opportunities for your child to practice their addition and subtraction skills. You could ask your child to: check the receipt by adding up the cost of items; calculate the change; calculate the price of two or three items you are buying, etc. This gives addition and subtraction a purposeful and real-life context.

Mental Maths Quiz

This is a really simple but effective way of helping your child develop their mental maths skills for addition and subtraction. Simply ask your child an addition or subtraction question which has to be completed mentally, such as $34 + 148 =$, and ask them to calculate the answer. This can be during the school run, at the dinner table or anytime where you can fit in a quick mental maths challenge.

Roll a Number!

Using a dice, ask your child to roll a 5-digit number (the numbers they roll form the 5 digits, such as 35 712). Repeat this process. Ask your child to add the numbers, or subtract the smallest number from the biggest, using a formal column method. Tip: if you can get hold of a 1-9 dice, this will vary the amount of numbers your child can create.

Problem Solver

Tell your child they have to set you a challenge; a maths word problem. Ask them to write a challenging word problem that involves addition and subtraction which you will find hard to solve. They need to also work out the answer to their problems to check if you have got it right or not. Often, children enjoy activities like this where they have to beat the grown-up.





Step 1

Revise Column Addition and Subtraction

If your child hasn't done column addition and subtraction for a while (or they struggled with it in the past), a good place to start is with revision. Revising the methods for addition and subtraction with large numbers will help provide your child with the skills they need to solve multi-step problems which involve addition and subtraction.

To help your child revise formal methods for addition and subtraction, try this **column addition poster** or this **column subtraction poster**. You can also use this **Addition and Subtraction Activity Pack** at home to help your child practise using formal methods of addition and subtraction.



Step 2

Solve Multi-Step Problems Which Involve Addition and Subtraction

Once children can confidently use formal methods of addition and subtraction, they are then expected to apply this knowledge to multi-step problems. These are problems which require two or more calculations in order to reach the answer.

At school, children are often given lots of opportunity to read problems and decide which calculations they need to do in order to solve the problem (usually with the support of the teacher at first). At home, try these **Multi-Step Problems Involving Addition and Subtraction Worksheets**, discussing the problems with your child and which calculations should be used, in which order.

Step 3

Use Estimating to Check the Answers to Calculations

Estimation is a method used to help check accuracy when completing calculations. Throughout key stage 2, children are encouraged to estimate their answers to calculations beforehand. Then, if their answer isn't close to their estimation, they know that they may have made a mistake and can recheck the calculation.

To estimate an answer, children first need to have a good knowledge of rounding numbers as estimation and rounding go hand-in-hand. If your child needs help with rounding, try this **Rounding Numbers Pack** to help your child revise this. When estimating answers, rounding can be used to get the estimate. For example, in the calculation $14\,576 + 38\,273$, you can round the numbers to the nearest thousand; $15\,000 + 38\,000$. This is easier to calculate mentally which gives an estimate of 53 000. Therefore, when the calculation is completed using a formal method, the answer should be close to 53 000. If not, this indicates that the calculation may have been done incorrectly and will need to be checked.

At home, try these **Year 6 Calculation Estimation Maths Mastery Challenge Cards** to help your child apply their knowledge of estimation and rounding to problems.

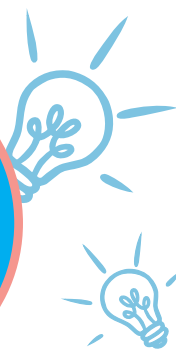


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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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