Explore and play

EYFS Aspect of learning

- Numbers

Busy Ant Maths F topic

- Adding and subtracting

40–60+ months Early years outcome

- In practical activities and discussion, beginning to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting

Activity 2: Small-world stories or or or

Objective

- Talk about subtraction in everyday language

Resources

small-world people, toys and props, e.g. house, buildings, cars (per group/pair); 1–6 dice (per pair/child)

What to do

- Let the children work in pairs within the groups. Ask the children to set up a small-world scene together. Each child sets up one room, with from seven to ten people in it.
- The children take turns to roll the dice and take away that many people from their room. They then say the subtraction story to the rest of the group, for example: 'Four people were in my room. Two people left to go to the kitchen. There are two people in the room now.'

Variation

- Use the same room for addition, for example: 'There are two people in the room, then three children come home from school. Now there are five in the room.'