Dear Families:

This week, we introduced subtraction and “taking away” one from a larger number. We read the book, *10 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*. As we read, we kept track of the monkeys that fell off the bed until there weren’t any monkeys jumping on the bed. We discussed that, by “taking away” one monkey, we are subtracting one from the larger number. We used mathematical vocabulary and concepts such as **take away**, **subtraction** and **how many**.

We have been practicing “taking away” (subtracting) a given, smaller number of objects from a larger whole. For example, six monkeys minus one monkey leaves (equals) five monkeys. The number sentence accompanies the operation that the children are acting out: 6-1=5.

This activity can easily be reinforced 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 the problem, restate the operation in numerical terms. “I had 10 buttons on the table and took four buttons away. How many buttons remain? So, 10-4=6.” It 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!