**Trio Challenge**

**How this will help your child**
- This activity will give your child a chance to understand that subtracting ‘undoes’ adding and that adding ‘undoes’ subtracting.
- It will help them to practise adding and subtracting in their heads.

**Words and phrases to use**
add, subtract, undoes, inverse, number trio

**You will need**
- Scissors

During the activity, look at what your child can do
- Find missing numbers by knowing that adding undoes subtracting and subtracting undoes adding.
- Add and subtract mentally.

**What to do**
- Cut out the 15 number cards from the Trio Challenge sheet and place them face up in front of you.
- Show your child that the Trio Challenge board contains three separate trios put together.
- Explain that each number card has a shape: a triangle, pentagon or square. The number cards can only be placed on the same shape on the board.
- Show your child the two numbers at the bottom of a trio add up to the number at the top of a trio.
- Ask your child to choose three ‘triangle’ numbers to put on the three triangles of the Trio Challenge board, e.g. they might choose 3, 4 and 6.
- Encourage them to use adding facts to find the missing number cards and complete the board.
- Repeat with different starting combinations of ‘triangle’ number cards.
- Next, ask them to choose two ‘pentagon’ cards or one ‘square’ card to start the board.
- Each time, talk with your child about how they are using adding and subtracting to find the missing numbers.

**Next steps…**
- Turn all the number cards face down. Take it in turns to pick up a card and put it on the board. If the card cannot be placed, because a space is already used or the numbers do not add up, miss a go. The winner is the person to complete the Trio Challenge board.
- Take advantage of daily opportunities for practising adding and subtracting mentally. For example, you could look at the weather forecast with your child to work out the differences in temperatures across the country.