Empty Number Line Method 1

The empty number line supports mental addition and subtraction strategies. When faced with a problem, first step is to draw a line and put the starting number at the correct end then jump the appropriate number of times until you reach your answer.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4 + 3 = | 9 – 4 = |
| 4  As you are adding, you jump forward 3 times, then check where you have landed.  7  6  5  4 | 9  As you are taking away, jump back 4 times then check where you have landed.  5  6  7  8  9 |

When adding or taking away a two digit number, concentrate on the tens first and then the ones (understanding of place value and ability to count in tens is a must for this strategy) e.g.,

46 + 34 =

+10

+10

+10

+1

+1

+1

+1

80

76

66

56

46