

## **Home and School:**

Learning Center – Students can use an app as part of their independent or partner work after being given guidelines for learning center work. One student or a pair of students can keep track of progress by checking off activities on their copies of a Mastery Checklist. For most children, working with a partner on meeting specific goals is a powerful way to increase attention, interest, and learning, but it is important that an adult be involved for modelling and check-ins, especially as students begin doing center work. Adults can encourage students' carefulness and use of proper procedures and also observe and offer suggestions for areas in which children may need help. Manipulatives, pencil and paper or whiteboards and marker pens should be available for students to show their work in other ways. Teachers can also ask students, even at early ages, to make a note of problems they run into.

Game Day -- A wonderful suggestion in Tools for Teaching by Fred Jones is game day: using Friday or part of Friday for games and individual projects pursued by students that let students practice and apply knowledge and skills.

## **Some questions to think about for *Xyla and Yabu*:**

What sorts of things would you like Xyla and Yabu to trade back and forth? Make up your own situations for them with your own choices of numbers. Give your situations to other kids to try, and try the ones they give you. See if you can figure out the missing parts and wholes from the information you are given.

What sorts of things in your life are parts and wholes? Right now, I'm thinking about parts of a whole coat. I might say: cloth, sleeves, buttons, buttonholes, and so forth. Or if I look at a guitar, I might think of the parts of that. If we put all the pieces together, we get a whole thing. If we subtract a part from the whole thing, we only have parts left. Come up with your own examples to share with your friends.

Do you like working with some numbers more than others? Which ones? Why?

Do you like working with some number patterns more than others? For instance, do you like adding on one or two, doubles, or making tens especially? Why?

Do the sizes of the bars help you to make better choices of which numbers go together to make parts and wholes? Make some bars of your own to show the sizes of different numbers.

You can have a whole big cookie, or you can have a whole small cookie. In this app, watch what happens when numbers get bigger. Does the whole get bigger? What do you think? Should we make the whole get bigger? How big should the whole be for a number like a million? How could we fit a bar for a number like a million on the screen?

What is addition? What is subtraction? If you can add numbers, can you subtract numbers? Which numbers are easier to add and subtract? Which numbers are more difficult to add and subtract?