

Subtraction Action

- Task** Children play a game in which they subtract the lesser number of pips on a domino face from the greater number of pips on the other face.
- Set-up** Each pair of children uses one set of dominoes; a small marker, such as a paper clip; and a "Subtraction Action" mat.
- Start-up** The marker is placed on the START space in the middle of the mat. One player selects a domino, determines which of the two faces has the greater value, and subtracts the lesser value from the greater one. After finding the difference, the player moves the marker that number of spaces toward GOAL ONE. The other player selects a domino, finds the difference between the faces, and moves the marker that number of spaces toward GOAL TWO. The player who reaches a goal first wins.
- Discussion** Point out that when a double is picked, since the difference between two of the same numbers is 0, the marker cannot be moved. As the game progresses, children will notice that the marker will move back and forth across START until one player picks a series of dominoes with large differences between the faces.
- Wrap-up** Key questions for discussion or response in journals:
- Which dominoes might you pick that would keep you from moving?
 - Which dominoes is it best to pick? Why?
- Follow-up** Players can select two dominoes, determine the total face value of each, and then move the number of spaces equal to the difference between them. Children can also design other game boards with different numbers of spaces and vary the playing rules.

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