# LETTER HOME

Cubes, Volume, and Repeated Addition

Dear Family Member:

What kind of structures has your child made with building blocks? houses? towers? skyscrapers? This unit extends students' experiences with building blocks and poses additional challenges. While constructing models made of cubes, students will explore the concept of volume using grouping and counting strategies. In particular, they will use repeated addition which lays the foundation for multiplication. Students use height, width, and volume to describe and compare cube models. As we explore spatial relationships and ways to communicate them, you can provide additional support at home by doing the following activities:

A cube model

- **Comparing Objects.** Find objects around your home for your child to compare. Ask your child which object is taller, which is longer from left to right and front to back, and which has more volume.

- **Copycat Buildings.** You and your child can take turns creating an original building from blocks or sugar cubes and then copying each other's structure. After completing each pair of buildings—the original and the copy—discuss with your child why the structures exactly match or do not match.
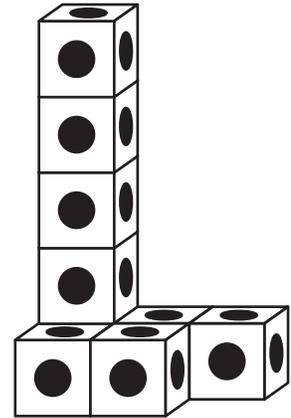
Math Facts and Mental Math

This unit continues the development of the addition facts and related subtraction facts in Group B: $3 + 0, 4 + 0, 4 + 1, 5 + 1, 6 + 1, 5 + 2, 6 + 2, 5 + 3, 7 + 1, 8 + 1$.

As you practice these facts with the flash cards at home, encourage your child to use good strategies to find the answers. Good strategies for Group B include:

Counting. To solve $6 + 1$, I think 6 in my head and count on 1 more to 7, or to solve $7 - 2$, I think 7 in my head and count back 2 to 5.

Zero. I know that any number plus zero is equal to that number, so $4 + 0 = 4$. I also know that any number minus zero is equal to that number, so $4 - 0 = 4$.

Thinking Addition. To solve $8 - 5$, I can think what number do I add to five to equal eight, or $5 + \quad = 8$. My answer is 3.

Thank you.

Sincerely,