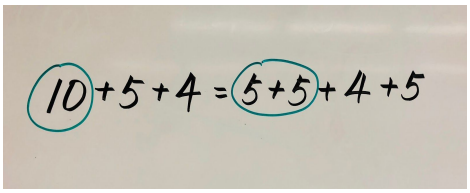
Home Connections:

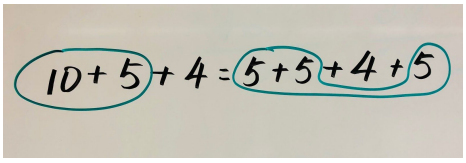
From Arithmetic to Algebra

What's the Difference?
When children show 17 + 32 = 49, they are doing arithmetic. When they say that 17 + 32 = 32 + 17 without calculating, they are thinking algebraically.

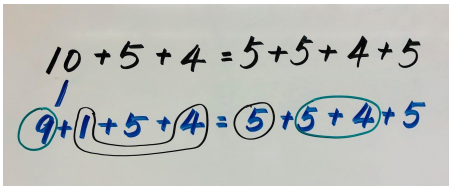
Try this True or False Activity:
Present the following and listen to how your child explains the situation.
10 + 5 + 4 = 5 + 5 + 4 + 5



"True because the two 5s are the same as the one 10 and 4 + 5 is the same as 5 + 4."



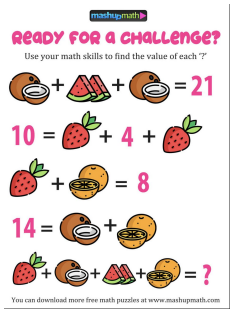
"True because there are three 5s and one 4 on each side."



"True because 10 = 9 + 1.
I combine the 1 and the 4 to make a 5. So now they are both 9 + 5 + 5."

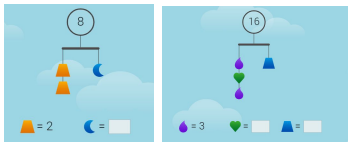
The idea here is getting your child to think about how numbers are related, what "=" means and not rushing in to solve.

Fun images like these are freely available online. Try this one from MashUp Math
https://mashupmath.com/freemathpuzzles/



Free online games to reinforce algebraic thinking:

SolveMe Mobiles

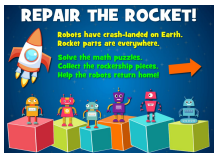


https://solveme.edc.org/mobiles/

Robot Rule Game

https://mathclips.ca/swfPlayer.html?swfURL=lib/CL004_LinearGrowingPatterns/CL004_Games/CL004_RobotRuleGame.swf&title=Robot%20Rule%20Game&swfURL=lib/CL004_LinearGrowingPatterns/CL004_Games/CL004_RobotRuleGame.swf&title=Robot%20Rule%20Game

Math Playground:
Thinking Blocks Junior Repair the Rocket Game



https://www.mathplayground.com/tb_addition_jr/index.html

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