Missing Numbers

Math Concepts: Add / Subtract - 2-digit numbers
Materials: Paper, pencil
Players: 2

The Challenge: Fill in the missing digits in an addition or subtraction puzzle:

$$\begin{array}{r} \_3 \\ +46 \\ \hline 6\_ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 7\_ \\ -\_6 \\ \hline 27 \end{array}$$

Create: Take an addition or subtraction equation and leave out some of the digits. For example, the above two puzzles were created by leaving out two digits from these original equations.

$$\begin{array}{r} 23 \\ +46 \\ \hline 69 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 73 \\ -46 \\ \hline 27 \end{array} \quad \dashrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{r} \_3 \\ +46 \\ \hline 6\_ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 7\_ \\ -\_6 \\ \hline 27 \end{array}$$

– DISCUSSION AND TIPS –

Students often find these puzzles more engaging than the corresponding questions such as: What is 23 + 46?

– VARIATIONS –

After getting comfortable with these, your student may enjoy doing some Letter Substitution puzzles. Those Letter Substitution puzzles also serve as an introduction to the use of variables.

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