

# Problem solving

# 5.4

## Objective

- Improve speed of addition and subtraction

## Resources

- Whiteboards and pens

## Activities

- Write these numbers on the board (or use number cards):  
3            7            2            8
- Challenge children to use all four numbers just once in a calculation so that the answer is 16, using addition and subtraction only.
- After one minute, take suggestions and check the answers.
- Repeat using the same numbers to make different totals, for example:  
10            20            14
- Repeat with the same numbers but allow children to use multiplication and division also to make, for example:  
29            14            26            31

## Language and vocabulary

Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, total, sum, plus, minus, subtract, add