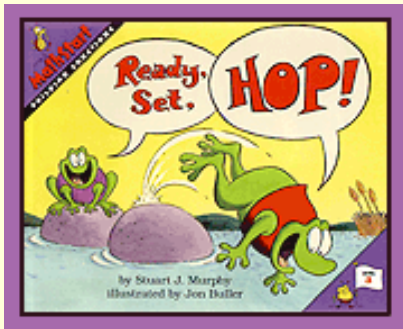




# MathStart®

Ready, Set, Hop!  
Building Equations  
Level 3 Ages 7+

## Activity Ideas

### Knowing how equations are built is central to children's learning how to interpret and write number sentences.

Who's the better hopper? Matty, the tall frog? Or Moe, who's just plain big? Only a hopping contest can settle the matter. It takes Moe only five hops to make it to the big rock. Matty needs two more hops. So how many hops did Matty take? ( $5 \text{ hops} + 2 \text{ hops} = ?$ ). The happy hoppers keep going until—splash!—they're in the pond. Illustrated by Jon Buller.

- Identify the clues that suggest operations: "More" suggests addition. "Less" suggests subtraction.
- Gather some crayons, buttons, or keys. Ask, "How many are in the pile?" Add a few more. Ask, "How many are in the pile now?" Take away several and ask, "Now how many are there?"
- Look at things in the real world and work together to create addition and subtraction problems. Examples could include fruit: 3 apples plus 2 oranges equals 5 pieces of fruit. Or you could use pets: 3 dogs minus 1 dog equals 2 dogs. Draw pictures of these examples and write the equations under the pictures.
- **TEACHER IDEA!** For *Ready, Set, Hop!*, we used a strip of oaktag and paper muffin wrappers to create a number line. We glued 21 muffin wrappers on the strip of oaktag and wrote the numbers from 0 to 20 in the center of them. Each participant was given a plastic frog. As we build each equation, the frog hopped along the number line. We used this book in conjunction with a song from Hap Palmer's Math Readiness CD called *Jumping*. They are a perfect set. Thanks Carol Hartrey, bookseller, The Learning Tree Store, Stoneham, NH!

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