Addition strategies are important skills for adding more than two numbers.

It's "Mall Mania" Day at the Parkside Mall. To celebrate, the 100th shopper to enter the mall will win all kinds of cool gifts. Jonathon, Nicole, Gabby and Steven—members of the Wilson Elementary chess club—are adding up the number of shoppers to come through each of the mall's four doors, sharing the data via walkie-talkie. Club captain Heather and advisor Mr. Grant are coordinating efforts. "How many shoppers so far?" asks Heather. Nicole counts 7, Gabby 4, Steve 3, and Jonathon 2: That's $7 + 4 + 3 + 2$. Nicole adds the numbers one by one: first, $7 + 4 = 11$; next, $11 + 3 = 14$; and then, $14 + 2 = 16$. Meanwhile, Gabby rearranges the numbers to uses "facts of 10" to make them easier to add: first, $7 + 3 = 10$; next, $4 + 2 = 6$; and then, $10 + 6 = 16$. Both girls come to the same answer, but by using different strategies. Other strategies include grouping identical numbers together for skip-counting, and "doubles plus/minus one" (for example, $3 + 4$ is the same as $3 + 3 + 1$). Who ends up the lucky 100th shopper? Let's just say it's someone who never expected to be counted at all! Illustrated by Renée Adriani.

- While running errands, have your child/children count cars in a parking lot by color. How many are silver? white? green? tan? red? Try different ways to add them together. How many cars are there in all? At home, count how many hats, gloves, coats and boots are in the closet. How many different ways can you find to add the totals together?

- Domino Addition Game: Lay all the dominoes face down. The first player chooses two dominoes and finds the sum of the four numbers shown. The second player does the same. The person with the highest total is the winner. As a variation, add the totals from three rounds. The person with the higher combined total is the winner.

- Counting Cards: Three to five players. The dealer takes four cards from the deck and places them face up. The other players must add up the totals. The first one with the correct answer wins the round. Play until all the cards are used up. The one who wins the most rounds is the champ!

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