Overcoming barriers in mathematics – helping children move from level 1 to level 2

Subtraction facts game

Ask children to work in pairs and give each pair:

- a copy of the subtraction facts game board
- a set of 0–9 cards
- a set of counters or cubes in two different colours (one colour for each player)
- any practical apparatus they might need to support them during the game.

Place the 0–9 number cards face down on the table. Each player should take it in turns to pick a 0–9 card. If their number is the answer to one of the subtraction questions on the board they can cover it with one of their counters/cubes. The winner is the first player who is able to place four of their counters in a line (or the person who has placed the most counters/cubes when all of the subtraction questions have been covered).

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9

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Subtraction facts game board

9 - 4	10 - 4	6 - 6	7 - 6	10 - 2	9 - 8
8 - 7	10 - 9	6 - 2	9 - 2	7 - 5	8 - 4
8 - 2	10 - 5	8 - 6	10 - 3	7 - 4	9 - 3
8 - 5	9 - 1	6 - 3	10 - 10	9 - 7	8 - 3
10 - 1	7 - 3	10 - 6	8 - 1	10 - 7	9 - 5
6 - 4	9 - 6	7 - 2	10 - 8	8 - 3	7 - 1