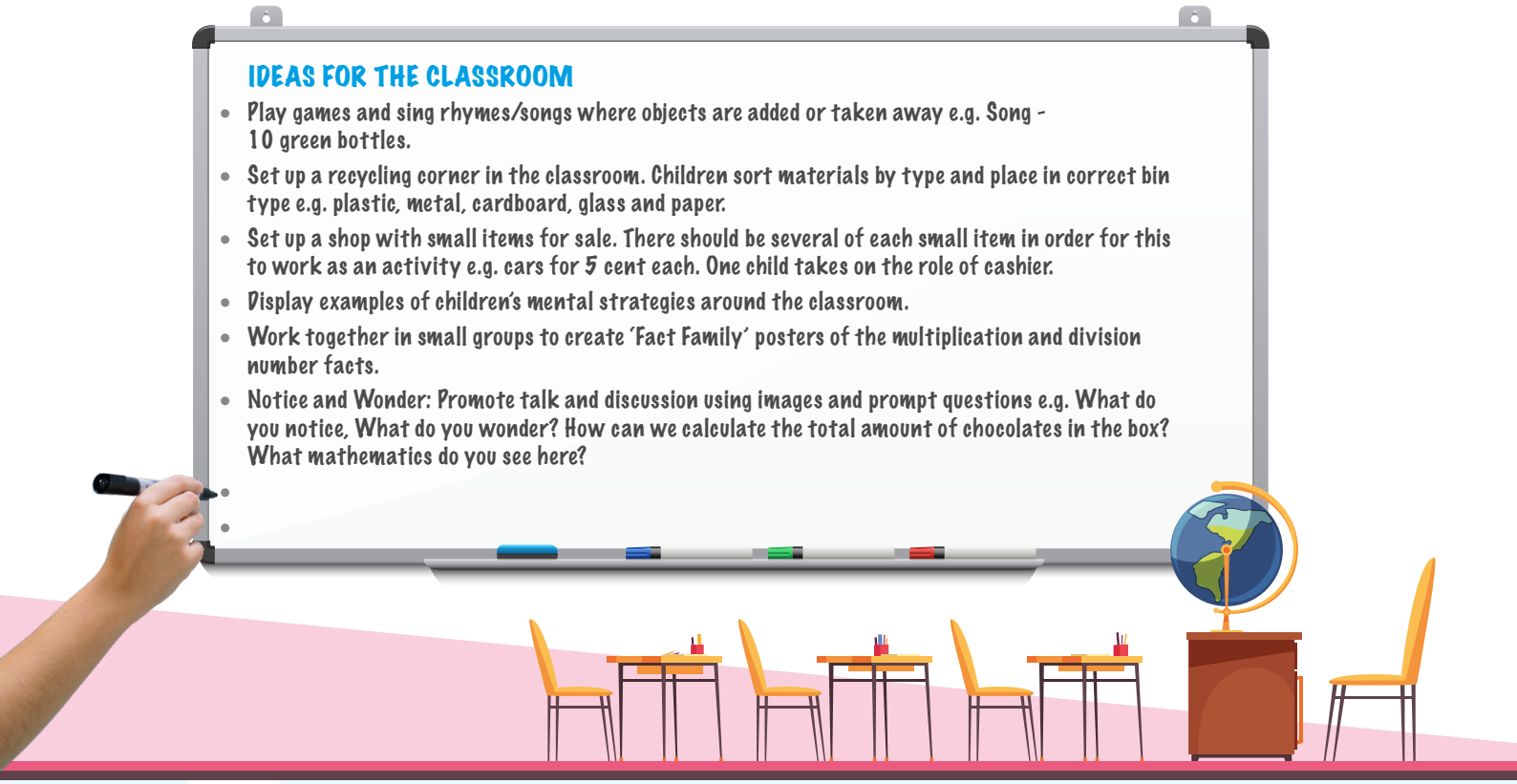
NCCA

Primary Mathematics Toolkit – Support material

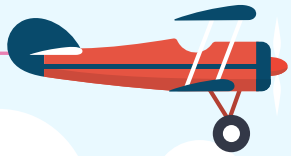
Sets and operations – Suggestions for the learning environment



IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- Play games and sing rhymes/songs where objects are added or taken away e.g. Song - 10 green bottles.
- Set up a recycling corner in the classroom. Children sort materials by type and place in correct bin type e.g. plastic, metal, cardboard, glass and paper.
- Set up a shop with small items for sale. There should be several of each small item in order for this to work as an activity e.g. cars for 5 cent each. One child takes on the role of cashier.
- Display examples of children's mental strategies around the classroom.
- Work together in small groups to create 'Fact Family' posters of the multiplication and division number facts.
- Notice and Wonder: Promote talk and discussion using images and prompt questions e.g. What do you notice, What do you wonder? How can we calculate the total amount of chocolates in the box? What mathematics do you see here?

IDEAS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Nature Trail – children work in groups to search for items in the school garden e.g. *twigs, leaves, feathers etc. Encourage children to create their own sorting criteria for the items collected and group into sets.*

Minibeast hunt around the school – count the legs on the insects that you find. Sort the insects by number of legs and create addition/multiplication sentences to match each group of insects e.g. *3 spiders – 8+8+8 =24 or 3 x 8 = 24*

Organise a representative from local industry or parent to visit the school and talk about how they use operations in their daily work.

Array hunt: search for items that come in arrays around the school e.g. *tiles on the floor, desks in the classroom, panes of glass in windows. Examine how the item is arranged – how many rows and columns there are. Compare and contrast different arrays.*

Create a school garden. Use multiplication and division to help set up the garden e.g. *If you want to have 5 cucumber plants and you need to plant 3 seeds in each hole, how many seeds do you need to have altogether?*

Look for items in shops that are arranged on shelves in arrays e.g. *fruit and vegetables.*

Developed in collaboration with **Mary Mc Mahon**