



Stuart J. Murphy's  
**MathStart**

**Elevator Magic**  
**Level 2 / Ages 6+**  
**Subtracting**



**Learning how to subtract using a simplified "number line" helps children understand the concept of subtraction.**

### Story Description

Who knew that riding an elevator could be such an adventure? Ben meets his Mom at her office on the 10th floor, then together they make several stops on their way down. They find cows and chickens at "Farm Bank and Trust" on the 8th floor, and a traffic jam at "Speedway Delivery" three floors below. As for the "Hard Rock Candy Store," you've got to see it to believe it. Learning how to subtract using a simplified "number line" helps children understand the concept of subtraction.

Illustrated by G. Brian Karas.

### Activities

- ☒ Ask questions throughout the story, such as "Which floor is 2 floors down from the 10th floor?" and "If you go 3 floors down from the 8th floor, where will you be?"
- ☒ Give your child (or students) each a handful of grapes, jellybeans, or peanuts. How many are there? If you eat 2 how many will be left? If one more is munched, how many then?
- ☒ Look at things in the real world that require subtraction skills. For example: If you buy 6 apples and eat 3, how many apples will be left? If you have a book of 10 stickers, and give 2 to a friend, how many stickers will you still have?



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