



# Helping Your Child with Word Problems

## Schema-Based Instruction Quick Reference



### Schema-Based Instruction

**Schema-based instruction** means teaching students how to look at the structure of word problems and figure out what type of word problem (*schema*) they are trying to solve. Two kinds of schemas are *additive* and *multiplicative*.



### Change Problems

**Change problems** are when an amount increases (*goes up*) or decreases (*goes down*) because something changes or happens to the starting number (*additive*).

$$\text{Start } +/- \text{ Change} = \text{End}$$



### Combine Problems

**Combine problems** put together two or more separate parts to make a total (*additive*).

$$\text{Part 1} + \text{Part 2} = \text{Total}$$



### Compare Problems

**Compare problems** are when two sets are compared to find the difference (*additive*).

$$\text{Greater} - \text{Less} = \text{Difference}$$



### Equal Groups Problems

Equal groups problems are when a group or unit is multiplied by a specific number for a product (*multiplicative*).

$$\text{Set } \times \text{ Times} = \text{Product}$$



### Comparison Problems

A comparison problem is when a set is multiplied a number of times for a product or total (*multiplicative*).

$$\text{Groups } \times \text{ Number in Each Group} = \text{Product}$$