

Telling the Story of 10

- Guide the children in expressing an equation (telling the story).
- * Place two blocks in the 10-box, such as 7 and 3.
- Measure them with the 10-block.
- As you do so, say, "Watch--7 needs 3 to be as big as 10."
- Remove the 10-block.
- Ask, "Can you put in two blocks that make 10 and tell the story?"
- A child puts in two blocks, places the 10-block beside them, and tells the story.
- Call on children to put in a pair of blocks and state the equation.

Note: Listen to what the children say. You can judge by the way they use their own words whether they understand what they are doing. Encourage them to use different expressions such as *make*, *are*, *are as big as*, and *are the same size as*. Once this concept is clear, introduce the word *equal*. The mechanical recitation of "eight 'n' two're ten," does not help children understand what an equation really means.

Watch - Seven needs three
to be as big as ten!

Can you put in
two blocks that
make ten and
tell the story?

