LESSON 2-5  Reteach

Solving Subtraction Equations

To solve an equation, you need to get the variable alone on one side of the equal sign.

You can use tiles to help you solve subtraction equations. Addition undoes subtraction, so you can use addition to solve subtraction equations.

One positive tile and one negative tile is called a zero pair because together they have a value of zero.

To solve \( x - 4 = 2 \), first use tiles to model the equation.

Next, add enough addition tiles to get the variable alone. Then add the same number of addition tiles to the other side of the equal sign.

Then remove the greatest possible number of zero pairs from each side of the equal sign.

Check: \( x - 4 = 2 \)

\[
\begin{align*}
6 - 4 & \neq 2 \\
2 + 2 & \neq 2
\end{align*}
\]

The remaining tiles represent the solution.
\[ x = 6 \]

Use tiles to solve each equation. Then check each answer.

1. \( x - 5 = 3 \)
2. \( x - 2 = 5 \)
3. \( x - 6 = 4 \)
4. \( x - 8 = 1 \)
5. \( x - 3 = 9 \)
6. \( x - 7 = 3 \)