

**MAGNETIC**

# AlgebraTILES™

## SET OF 72 TILES INCLUDES:

- 1 Unit yellow (20)
- x Green (12)
- $x^2$  Blue (4)
- -1 Unit red (20)
- -x Red (12)
- $-x^2$  Red (4)

Magnetic Algebra Tiles™ provide concrete models of variables and integers that enable students to explore and better comprehend basic algebraic concepts. While the tiles do not solve problems for students directly, they bridge the gap between a concept and the symbols used to record it algebraically.

## SAMPLE ACTIVITY: USING THE ZERO PRINCIPLE IN SUBTRACTION

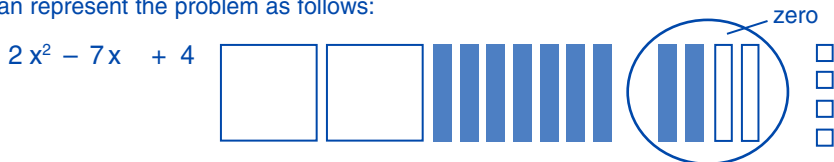
Let  represent  $x^2$ ,  represent  $x$ , and  represent 1.

Explain that the “take away” method works well when there are tiles readily available to take away. When there aren’t enough of the right tiles to “take away,” students can apply the zero principle and then subtract.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x^2 - 7x + 4 \\ - (x^2 + 2x + 2) \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**⚠ WARNING:**  
**CHOKING HAZARD**—Small parts. Not for children under 3 years.  
**MAGNETS**—This product contains small magnets. Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious infections and death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.

There are no  $x$  tiles to take away, only  $-$  tiles. However, you can provide as many  $x$  tiles as you need by applying the zero principle. Since you need two  $x$  tiles, you can represent the problem as follows:



Now, take away the tiles that represent the subtrahend  $x^2 + 2x + 2$  and count the remaining tiles to determine the difference.



The model above shows that the subtrahend tiles have been taken away, leaving  $x^2 - 9x + 2$ .

For more sample activity worksheets for Algebra Tiles, please visit [www.LearningResources.com](http://www.LearningResources.com).

## INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

- **Abstract Representation:** To help students who have difficulty recalling the value of a given tile during problem demonstration, write values directly on the tiles with a dry-erase marker.
- **Visualization:** To help students develop intermediate problem-solving strategies, have them draw basic pictures of tiles when working out traditional paper-and-pencil assessments. Drawing can reveal students' understanding of concepts and how they find solutions to specific problems.

Look for these other great products from Learning Resources®:

- LER 7539 Algebra Tiles™ Workbook
- LER 7540 Algebra Tiles™ Student Set (Set of 32 Tiles)
- LER 7547 Algebra Tiles™ Classroom Set (30 Student Sets)

RISQUE D'ÉTOUFFEMENT. Petites pièces. Interdit aux enfants en dessous de 3 ans.  
 ERSTICKUNGSGEFAHR. Kleine Teile. Nicht geeignet für Kinder unter 3 Jahren.  
 PELIGRO DE ASFIXIA. Piezas pequeñas. No se recomienda para menores de 3 años.



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