Maths 5 – strike it out game

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

How do you play?
You'll need an adult or an older sibling to play with.
You'll also need a number line from 0 to 20, like the one above.

Reminder:
Sum – this is the amount when 2 numbers are added together
Difference – this is the amount when you subtract the smaller number from the bigger number.

Player 1 chooses a number on the line and crosses it out.
They then choose a second number and cross that out too.
Finally, player 1 circles the sum or difference of the two numbers and writes down the calculation.

For example, the adult's go could look like this:

0 1 2 3̶ 4 5 6 7 8̶ 9 10 ⑪ 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

3 + 8 = 11

Player 2 must start by crossing off the number that the adult has just circled.
You then choose another number to cross out, and then circle a third number which is the sum or difference of the two crossed-off numbers.
Player 2 also writes down their calculation.

For example, once you have had a turn, the game could look like this:

0 1 2 3̶ 4 5 6 7 8̶ 9̶ 10 ⑪̶ 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 ⑳

3 + 8 = 11
11 + 9 = 20

Play continues in this way with each player starting with the number that has just been circled.

For example, the adult could then have a turn which left the game looking like this:

3 + 8 = 11
11 + 9 = 20
20 - 4 = 16

The winner of the game is the player who stops their opponent from being able to go.

What is your strategy for winning?
Can you cross out all the numbers in one game? How do you know?
What is the biggest number of numbers you can cross out?

Easier version: try starting with a number line from 0-10 instead
Harder version: try using multiplication and division as well as addition and subtraction. You could also make the number line longer – e.g. 0-30

Notes for adults
Strike it out offers an engaging context in which to practise addition and subtraction, but it also requires some strategic thinking.