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A set $\mathcal{A} \subseteq [n] \cup \{0\}$ is said to be a 2-additive basis for $[n]$ if each $j \in [n]$ can be written as $j = x + y, x, y \in \mathcal{A}, x \leq y$. If we pick each integer in $[n] \cup \{0\}$ independently with probability $p = p_n \rightarrow 0$, thus getting a random set \mathcal{A} , what is the probability that we have obtained a 2-additive basis? We can address this question using arithmetic modulo n , or, alter the question so that the target sum-set is $[\frac{n}{2}, \frac{3n}{2}]$ (or $[(1 - \alpha)n, (1 + \alpha)n]$ for some $0 < \alpha < 1$). Under either model, the Stein-Chen method of Poisson approximation is used to tease out a very sharp threshold for the emergence of a 2-additive basis. Generalizations to 3- and h -additive bases are then given. Finally, we define a class $B_{h,k}$ of Sidon-like sets and derive thresholds for the emergence of these, under the same probability model as before. We do this so as to motivate the notion of (h, k) -additive bases. (Received September 21, 2011)