

Integers and Rational Numbers

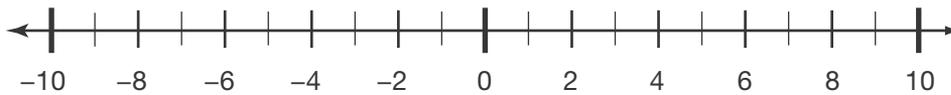
Dear Family,

Your child is learning to use integers and other rational numbers to solve problems. A part of this is learning the meanings of integers and how to use them to describe quantities that have opposite directions or values, and learning how to compare and order these numbers. Your child will also learn about the position of integers and rational numbers on a coordinate plane. He or she will graph shapes and use absolute value to find distances between a shape's vertices with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate.

You can help your child understand the concept of negative integers by playing the following game.

What Integer Am I?

Draw a number line on a large sheet of paper.



Step 1 Player 1 places a token on any number on the number line. Positive numbers, negative numbers, and zero are all fair game.

Step 2 Player 2 says, "What is my name?" "What is my opposite?" and "How many units am I away from 0?"

Step 3 Player 1 then gives the name of the integer, its opposite, and tells its distance from 0.

Step 4 Trade roles and play again.

Alternate Gameplay: Draw a number line that shows halves and whole numbers from -5 to 5 . Place tokens at any location on the number line to talk about positive and negative fractions and decimals.

Observe Your Child

Focus on Mathematical Practices

Use appropriate tools strategically.

Help your child become proficient with this Mathematical Practice. After drawing the number line for the activity above, ask your child where he or she might have seen or used a number line before. Suggest a thermometer or football field if your child has trouble coming up with an idea.