

Name _____

Numeric and Algebraic Expressions

Dear Family,

Your child is learning about common factors and multiples of numbers. This includes identifying prime and composite numbers and writing the prime factorization of a number.

In addition, your child is learning how to read, write, and evaluate expressions that represent situations and patterns, and how to use order of operations and properties when evaluating expressions. He or she will use variables to represent numbers and write expressions, including some that involve exponents, to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

Suppose your son or daughter has grown 2 inches since the last time he or she was measured. To represent your child's current height, you could use the variable h to represent the previous height and add 2. So, the expression $h + 2$ would represent your child's current height. To evaluate the expression, you would substitute your child's previous height for h .

Here is an activity that you can try to help your child learn how to write and evaluate expressions.

Household Expressions

One way to help your child develop skills in writing and evaluating expressions is to write expressions for everyday situations and then evaluate the expressions for different numbers. Here are some typical situations that you might use.

Food Preparation: What expression can you use to show dividing pancakes among 4 family members? ($p \div 4$, where p is the number of pancakes)

Chores: What expression can you use to show the total amount of time it takes to do chores if it takes 20 minutes to do each chore? ($20c$ or $20 \times c$, where c is the number of chores)

Observe Your Child

Focus on Mathematical Practices

Model with mathematics.

Help your child become proficient with this Mathematical Practice. When working with expressions with your child, make sure that he or she names and defines the variable before writing the expression. Stress that once a variable has been chosen, it represents the same measure throughout the situation.