

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to add and subtract decimals.



Your child can use what he or she knows about adding and subtracting whole numbers to add and subtract decimals.

To add $3.82 + 0.4$, it's useful to show the numbers in a place-value chart.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
3	.	8	2
0	.	4	0

Write a 0 in the hundredths column of 0.4, since $\frac{4}{10}$ is equivalent to $\frac{40}{100}$.

Line up the decimal points and add as you do with whole numbers. Remember to write a decimal point in the sum.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 3.82 \\ + 0.40 \\ \hline 4.22 \end{array}$$

To subtract 2.05 from 4.6, write 4.6 as a hundredths decimal, 4.60. You need to write both decimals as hundredths decimals in order to subtract.

Line up the decimal points and subtract as you do with whole numbers.

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \ 10 \\ 4.\cancel{6}0 \\ - 2.05 \\ \hline 2.55 \end{array}$$

Another way your child can add and subtract decimals is to picture a number line or base-ten models. Jump forward on the number line for addition and jump backward for subtraction. Combine base-ten models for addition and remove base-ten models for subtraction.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about adding and subtracting decimals by doing the following activity together.



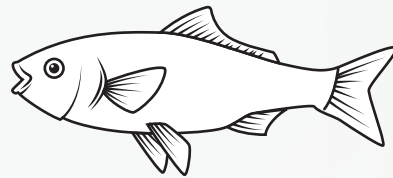
Adding and Subtracting Decimals Activity

Materials: calculator (optional)

Work with your child to make up and solve real-life problems involving decimals.

- Take turns finding or making up some Amazing Stories with decimal numbers for the other person to solve.
- First try to solve the problems with a paper and pencil. Then check your answers with a calculator.
- Here are some examples:

A large fish measured 284.56 centimeters long. At one time, the world's longest goldfish was 47.4 centimeters long. If you put those two fish end to end, what would the total length be?



A dog jumped 1.72 meters, and its human owner jumped 1.81 meters. How much higher did the owner jump than the dog?



- Be on the lookout for other real-life examples of adding and subtracting decimals. For example, a grocery receipt shows decimal addition. Challenge your child to estimate the sum, then look at the receipt to check.