

Add Decimals



Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to add decimals.

The strategies you use to add whole numbers can also be used to add decimals. You might use place-value understanding, decimal models, or number properties that allow you to break apart numbers and add numbers in different orders.

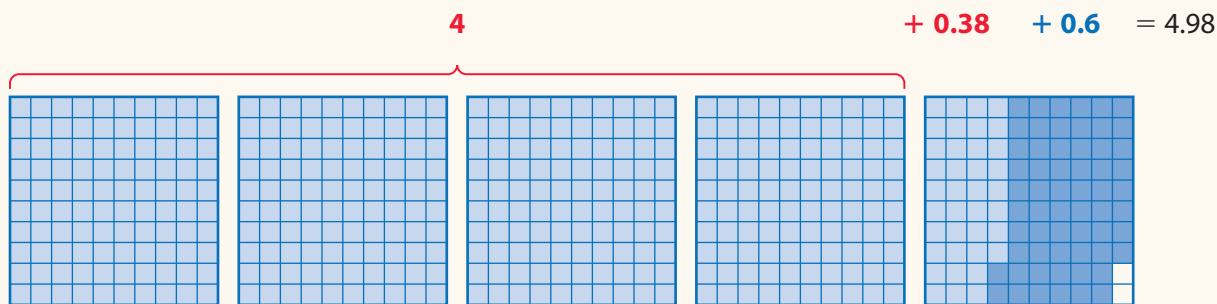
For example, you can add 4.38 and 0.6 by lining the numbers up by place value.

	Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
	4	.	3	8
+	0	.	6	0
<hr/>				
	4	.	9	8

6 tenths is the same as 60 hundredths!

So, $4.38 + 0.6 = 4.98$.

You can also use concrete models, such as decimal grids, to add 4.38 and 0.6. Each grid of 100 squares represents one whole.



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

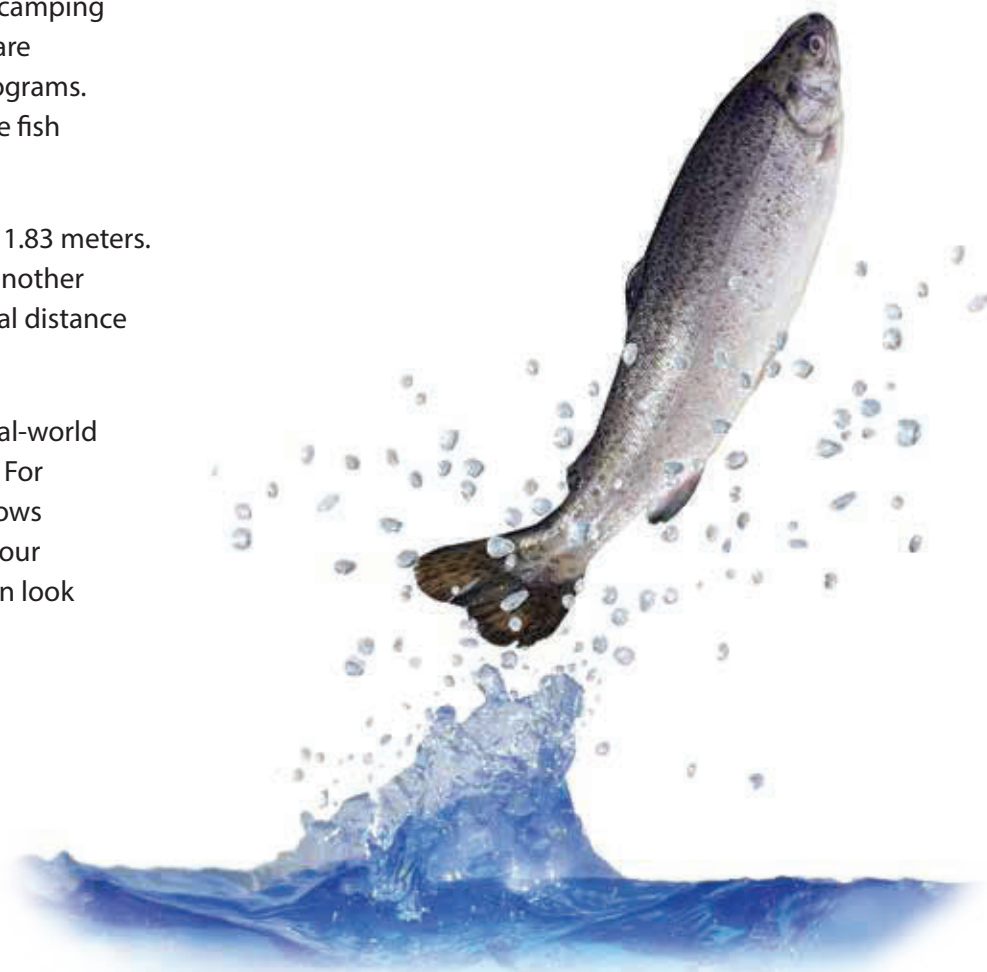
ACTIVITY ADDING DECIMALS

Do this activity with your child to add decimals.

Materials calculator (optional)

Work with your child to make up and solve real-world problems involving addition of decimals.

- Take turns finding or making up some stories with decimal numbers. Include a decimal addition problem for the other person to solve.
- First, try to solve the problems with paper and pencil. Then check your answers with a calculator.
- Here are some examples of problems you might solve:
 1. Gavin caught two fish on a camping trip. The masses of the fish are 12.25 kilograms and 7.4 kilograms. What is the total mass of the fish Gavin caught?
 2. Angelique jumped forward 1.83 meters. Then she jumped forward another 1.72 meters. What is the total distance Angelique jumped?
- Be on the lookout for other real-world examples of adding decimals. For example, a grocery receipt shows decimal addition. Challenge your child to estimate the sum, then look at the receipt to check.



Answers: 1. 19.65 kilograms; 2. 3.55 meters