

Evaluate, Write, and Interpret Expressions



Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to evaluate, write, and interpret expressions.

When you **evaluate** an expression, you are finding the value of the expression. There are rules about the order in which you do the operations.

Your child might see an expression like this:

$$\frac{1}{2} \times (24 + 8)$$

To evaluate the expression, you first do the operation inside the parentheses.

So, first add $24 + 8$. Then multiply that sum by $\frac{1}{2}$.

$$\frac{1}{2} \times (24 + 8)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times 32$$

$$16$$

The value of the expression is 16.

The same expression can be stated in words: *half of the sum of 24 and 8*.

Your child might also see a written phrase that describes an expression. He or she can write the expression using numbers and symbols:

$$15 \text{ minus the sum of 6 and 7} \quad 15 - (6 + 7)$$

Because you need to first find the sum $6 + 7$, there are parentheses around that part of the expression. To evaluate the expression, add 6 and 7 and subtract the sum from 15:

$$15 - (6 + 7)$$

$$15 - 13$$

$$2$$

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about evaluating and writing expressions by doing the following activity together.

ACTIVITY WRITING AND EVALUATING EXPRESSIONS

Do this activity with your child to write and evaluate expressions.

With your child, play a game called "Evaluate That Expression!"

- One person uses some of the math words in the box below to describe an expression in words and phrases.

sum	one less than	quotient
plus	product	difference
times	minus	divided by
triple	double	half

- The other person writes the expression using numbers and symbols. Remember to use parentheses if they are needed!
- Evaluate the expressions together. Take turns.
- Some examples of expressions:
 1. The sum of 8 and one less than 8
 2. Triple the difference of 5 and 2



Answers: 1. $8 + (8 - 1)$; 2. $3 \times (5 - 2)$