Compare and Round Decimals

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to compare and round decimals.

One way to compare decimals is to use a place-value chart. For example, compare 7.033 and 7.02. Write a 0 in the thousandths column for 7.02. Start by comparing the ones.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths	Thousandths
7	.	0	3	3
7	.	0	2	0

$7 = 7 \qquad 0 = 0 \qquad 3 > 2$

The ones digits are the same. The tenths digits are the same.
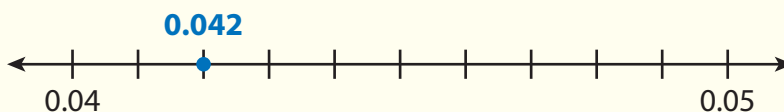3 hundredths > 2 hundredths. So, 7.033 > 7.02.

Another way to compare decimals is to write them as mixed numbers. Write the fractions with like denominators.

$$7.033 = 7\frac{33}{1,000} \qquad\qquad 7.02 = 7\frac{2}{100} = 7\frac{20}{1,000}$$

$$7\frac{33}{1,000} > 7\frac{20}{1,000}$$

So, 7.033 > 7.02.

Your child is also learning to round decimals using a number line. The number line shows that 0.042 is closer to 0.04 than to 0.05.

0.042

0.042 rounded to the nearest hundredth is 0.04.

Invite your child to share what they know about comparing and rounding decimals by doing the following activity together.

Learning Games

Zoom

Bounce

Math Tools

Base-Ten Blocks

Number Line

ACTIVITY COMPARE DECIMALS

Do this activity with your child to compare decimals.

Work with your child to find real-world examples that involve comparing decimals.

• Look around your home or through fliers for at least eight decimal numbers. The wrappers or labels on household items often show decimals. Make a list of the decimals as you find them. You do not need to write the units.

• Examples: a 3.17-ounce bar of soap, an 8.5-ounce bottle of lotion, a 7.4-ounce box of snack bars, a 7.9-ounce box of crackers.

• Take turns. One person marks two numbers for the other person to compare. Make a place-value chart like the one on the first page of this letter if needed. Circle the greater decimal.

• Challenge! After you have finished the activity, you should now have four sets of decimal numbers with the greater decimal circled. Can you determine the greatest decimal of those four decimals?