

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Algebra: Write and Interpret Numerical Expressions

## Topic 13 Standards

5.OA.A.1, 5.OA.A.2

See the front of the Student's Edition for complete standards.

Dear Family,

In this topic, your student is learning how to write simple expressions—combinations of numbers and operations that describe a mathematical problem. For instance, the expression that represents 2 times the sum of 9 and 7 is  $2 \times (9 + 7)$ . He or she will use the order of operations to evaluate expressions containing parentheses, brackets, or braces.

Here is an activity that you can do with your student to help him or her practice writing expressions.

## Weighty Words

**Materials:** pencil, index cards

**Step 1** Write each of the following phrases on an index card: "more than", "times", "less than", and "divided by".

**Step 2** Write each of the following numbers on an index card: "two", "nine", "seventy-two", and "one hundred twenty".

**Step 3** Write each of the following phrases on an index card: "your age", "the number of our house", "the number of people in our family", and "the number of days in this month".

**Step 4** Use one card from each category to make an expression in words, such as "nine more than the number of days in this month". Challenge your child to write a mathematical expression, such as  $31 + 9$ , that matches the word expression.

---

## Observe Your Child

### Focus on Mathematical Practice 2

Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Help your child become proficient with Mathematical Practice 2. Without evaluating either expression, ask your child to compare the expressions  $15 - 4$  and  $2 \times (15 - 4)$ . Have your child explain his or her answer.