

Dear Family,

What We're Learning

Our math class will be spending the next few weeks learning to add and subtract whole numbers. We will also be learning how to use addition and subtraction in expressions and equations.

As we learn how to write and evaluate expressions, you may wish to use the following sample as a guide.

Vocabulary

- ▶ **algebraic expression** An expression that consists of one or more variables. It could contain some constants and some operations.
- ▶ **evaluating an expression** Substituting the values given for the variables and performing the operations to find the value of the expression.
- ▶ **equation** A mathematical sentence with an equals sign.
- ▶ **variable** A letter or a symbol that represents a number in an algebraic expression.



Guiding Your Child

Writing and Evaluating Expressions

Look at the problem to the right. To solve this problem, you can write and then evaluate an expression.

First, write an expression to represent the number of dolls.

- Let b stand for the number of books.
- Then $b + 4$ is the number of dolls.

Then, since you know that there are 6 books, you can evaluate the expression when $b = 6$.

- Write the expression: $b + 4$
- Replace b with 6: $6 + 4$
- Simplify the expression: $6 + 4 = 10$

So, if there are 6 books on the shelf, there are 10 dolls.

The number of dolls on a shelf is 4 more than the number of books.

How many dolls are on the shelf if there are 6 books on the shelf?

During this chapter, students should continue to practice their basic facts for addition and subtraction.

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher