

Name _____

Rational Number Operations

Dear Family,

Your child is learning to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers and rational numbers. The focus is on understanding positive and negative numbers and how the signs of the numbers affect their sums, differences, products, and quotients. He or she will use a variety of methods and tools, including number lines, absolute value, and inverse operations, to develop an understanding of these operations.

Here is an activity you can do with your child to help him or her develop fluency with integers.

What's the Sum?

Materials: 21 index cards or small pieces of paper numbered with the integers from -10 to 10 (one integer per card)

Step 1 Player 1 shuffles the cards and gives two cards to Player 2.

Step 2 Player 2 adds the numbers on his or her cards and explains how the signs of the numbers affect the sum. For example, $3 + (-7) = -4$.

Step 3 Player 2 returns the cards to the stack. Trade roles and play again.

Alternate Gameplay: Subtract, multiply, or divide the integers.

Observe Your Child

Focus on Mathematical Practices

Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Help your child become proficient with this Mathematical Practice. Ask your child to suggest a real-world context for each sum in the game. If he or she has difficulty coming up with a context, you might discuss saving and spending money or changes in temperature or elevation.