

What We Are Learning

Solving Linear Equations

Vocabulary

These are the math words we are learning:

equivalent expression

expressions that have the same value for all the values of the variables

like term terms that have the same variable raised to the same power

simplify perform all the operations possible, including combining like terms

term elements of an expression that are separated by operations

Dear Family,

Your child will learn how to combine like terms in order to simplify an expression. Combining like terms is an important concept for your child to grasp. Your child will learn that just because he or she changes the way an expression looks, the value of the expression stays the same. For example:

Combine like terms.

$$6x + 8y + 9x$$

$$6x + 8y + 9x$$

$$6x + 9x + 8y$$

$$15x + 8y$$

Identify like terms.

Rearrange the expression.

Add the coefficients of like terms.

Your child will also learn to solve equations where there is more than one variable term on the same side of an equation. The first step is to combine like terms so that there is only one variable term. Then solve for the variable using inverse operations.

Solve. $3k + 5 - k = -9$

$$3k + 5 - k = -9$$

Combine "like terms."

$$3k - k = 2k$$

$$2k + 5 = -9$$

Now get the k alone.

$$2k + 5 = -9$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -5 \\ \hline 2k = -14 \end{array}$$

Subtract first.

$$\frac{2k}{2} = \frac{-14}{2}$$

Divide next.

$$k = -7$$