

5 Skills to Master Before Starting Algebra

Algebra builds on our foundational math skills. Let's make sure these skills are in top shape!



For example:

$$2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$$

$$\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{16}$$

1) EXPONENTS

Can your child express what an exponent is using words? Can your child solve various problems using exponents?



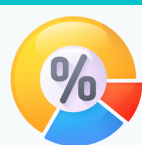
2) MULTIPLICATION & THE DISTRIBUTIVE PROPERTY

Is your child comfortable with times tables and recognizing common factors? Can your child recognize different ways to solve a multiplication problem?

For example:

What are the factors of 14?
1, 2, 7, 14

$$4(6 + 5) = (4 \times 6) + (4 \times 5)$$
$$4(6 + 5) = 24 + 20 = 44$$



For example:

Which is larger:
43% or $\frac{3}{5}$?
43% = 0.43 and $\frac{3}{5} = 0.6$
 $\frac{3}{5} > 43\%$

3) FRACTIONS, DECIMALS, PERCENTS

Can your child easily convert numbers from fractions to percents? What about from percents to decimals? Can your child compare values?

4) OPERATIONS USING POSITIVE & NEGATIVE NUMBERS

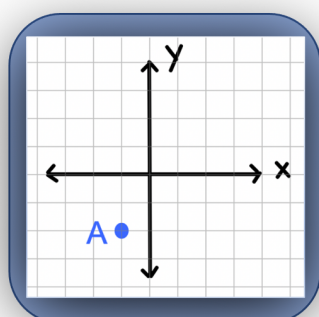
Is your child comfortable with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with positive and negative numbers?

For example:

$$-3 + 6 = 3$$
$$-3 - 10.7 = -13.7$$
$$-5 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -5\frac{1}{2}$$
$$-12 \times 0.6 = -7.2$$
$$-24 \div -\frac{3}{4} = 32$$



For example: What are the coordinates of Point A?



Point A is located at (-1, 2)

5) GRAPHING ON THE COORDINATE PLANE

Would your child be able to graph points on the coordinate plane and write the coordinates for an identified point?

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