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?
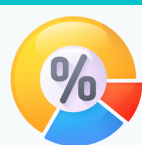
2) MULTIPLICATION & THE DISTRIBUTIVE PROPERTY

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

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

For example:

Which is larger:
43% or $\frac{3}{5}$?

$$43\% = 0.43 \text{ and } \frac{3}{5} = 0.6$$

$$3/5 > 43\%$$

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?

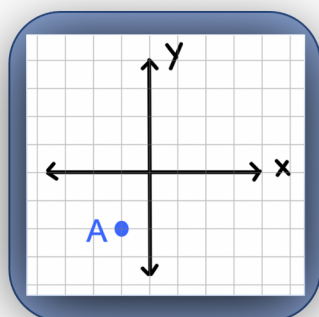## 4) OPERATIONS USING POSITIVE & NEGATIVE NUMBERS

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?

Reach out for support on any of these concepts. Let's be ready for algebra!
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