

## Chapter 2 Negative Numbers and the Number Line

### Dear Family,

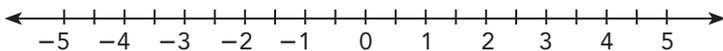
In this chapter, your student will learn about negative numbers. Some of the skills your student will practice are:

- using negative numbers to represent real-world quantities
- comparing and ordering numbers on a number line
- understanding absolute values

### Activity

A good foundation in number sense will help your student in middle school and beyond. In this activity your student can practice identifying positive and negative numbers, their opposites, and their absolute values.

- Draw a long straight line on a sidewalk with chalk, or tape a long piece of string to a bare floor, or tape a shorter piece of string to a table top.
- Use chalk, masking tape, or self-stick removable notes to add evenly-spaced numbered labels to the number line, as shown. If you are using the floor or a sidewalk, put the labels about one foot apart.



- Have your student stand (or point, if using a table top) at the point labeled 0.
- Give a direction such as "Go to  $-2$ ," or "Move your finger to  $-2$ ." After your student completes the direction correctly, give another one. Include directions such as "Go to the opposite of  $-5$ " and "Go to the absolute value of  $-4$ ."

### Vocabulary to Practice

A **negative number** is to the left of 0 on a horizontal number line.

A negative number is the **opposite** of its corresponding positive number. 10 is the opposite of  $-10$  and  $-10$  is the opposite of 10.

The **absolute value** of a number is its distance from 0 on a number line. Two vertical bars are used to represent absolute value:

$|-2| = 2$  and  $|4| = 4$ . Because distance is always positive, absolute values are always positive.

0 is its own opposite, and the absolute value of 0 is 0.



### Online Resources

For additional Parent Resources [my.hrw.com](http://my.hrw.com)