



Dear Family,

Your child is learning math in an innovative program called *Math Expressions*. This program interweaves abstract mathematical concepts with everyday experiences of children. This approach helps children to understand math better.

In *Math Expressions* your child will learn math and have fun by:

- working with objects and making drawings of math situations
- working with other students and sharing problem-solving strategies with them
- writing and solving problems and connecting math to daily life
- helping classmates learn

Your child will have math homework almost every day. He or she needs a Homework Helper. The helper may be anyone — you, an older brother or sister (or other family member), a neighbor, or a friend.

Please decide who the main Homework Helper will be and ask your child to tell the teacher tomorrow.

Make a specific time for homework and provide your child with a quiet place to work. Encourage your child to talk about what he or she is doing in math class. If your child is having problems with math, please talk to me to see how you might help.

To make the concepts clearer, the *Math Expressions* program uses some special methods and activities. Two are described on the back of this letter.

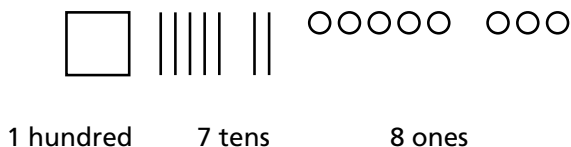
Thank you. You are vital to your child's learning.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher

continued ►



- **Place Value Drawings:** Students learn to represent numbers with drawings that show how many hundreds, tens, and ones are in the numbers. Hundreds are represented by boxes. Tens are represented by vertical line segments. Ones are represented by small circles. The drawings are also used to help students understand regrouping in addition and subtraction. Here is a place value drawing for the number 178.



The 7 ten sticks and 8 circles are grouped in 5s so you can see the quantities easily and avoid errors.

- **Secret Code Cards:** Secret Code Cards are a set of cards for hundreds, tens, and ones. Students learn about place value by assembling the cards to show two- and three-digit numbers. Here is how the number 148 would be assembled.

