

Expressions and equations

Terms	Illustrations	Definitions
Abstract thinking		Thinking logically without the use of concrete material or visual representations.
Algebra		The use of letters and numbers to express information.
Algebraic terms	$2x$	This is the overall term used for shorthand algebra such as $4t$ or $5x$
Distributive Law	$3 \times 2 + 3 \times 4 = 3 \times (2+4)$	Multiplying a number by a group of numbers added together is the same as doing each multiplication separately
Early / Initial algebraic thinking		Understanding the order of numbers, their place on the number line and how they can be combined. Also understanding that the equal sign '=' shows balance e.g. $2 + 2 = 4$.
Equality / Balance		The equal sign indicates that one quantity is the same as another. Visualising the equals sign (=) as a balance point is very useful
Equation	$x + 2 = 6$ $4x - 2 = 10$ $4x = 12$ $x = 3$	Equations use letters, numbers, signs and symbols and allow given situations or conditions to be expressed in the most concise way possible. An equation has an equals sign to show balance.