

Symbols

Ask the children to note down the signs they see in the school or when walking to and from school signs which involve the use of symbols.

They need to know what the sign is telling them.

Pupils are to note down the design and ask them what the message is being delivered.

Ask the children to draw the sign and show how the symbols on the sign work.

Applying numbers

Numbers are symbols that can be used to denote quantities of an item(s).

Show the children example of this and ask them to come up with the number of pencils, rules, picture of the notice board etc and list down in table form those quantities.

Ask the children to report back their finds.

Functions

After familiarising the children with mathematical symbols and the application of numbers. Ask the children to write down the following equation:

$$2x + - (10b + 4a)$$

Ask the children, like a code, to replace the variable; x , y , b and a with real things. What we are looking for is the funniest equation ever.

Clowns, moms, dads nans anything. There may offer a prize for the funniest equation in the universe.

Show the children how to evaluate the equation by reminding the children that:

$2x$ means 2 times x

A y on its own is 1

Evaluate the items in the brackets first.

Give the children some examples of these functions and ask them to evaluate them.

Inequalities

In mathematics we are normally asked to evaluate the equations that are equal

$$2x + 3y = t$$

However, some equations are not equal. There are four possible alternatives:

< less than

</_ less than or equal to.

>greater than

>/_ greater than or equal to

Show the children examples of each using number lines.

Ask the children to create their own example which they would report back to the class either as a group or individually.