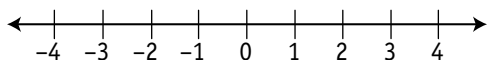


ZERO PAIRS

Why is this important?

Students often think that there are no numbers less than zero. Others think that numbers less than zero are fractions. If not corrected, these misconceptions can be problematic when students study algebra.

Children need to remember that integers are positive and negative whole numbers. Numbers to the right of zero on a number line, such as 1, 2, 3, are positive. Numbers to the left of zero on a number line are negative, such as -1 , -2 , -3 .



Zero is also an integer, and it is neither positive nor negative. As you move to the right on a number line, the value of the numbers increases. As you move to the left, the value decreases.

If you don't see a symbol in front of a number (either $+$ or $-$), you can assume it is positive. Negative numbers always need a negative ($-$) sign.

In this activity, you and your family will be adding positive and negative numbers to your bank account and looking at the resulting balances.

MATERIALS

30 red beans

30 black beans

paper bowl or plate

scratch paper and

pencils

How

- Work with a partner or your family.
- We can model adding positive and negative integers using beans. Let's use red beans to represent negative quantities and black beans as positive quantities.
- Let's pretend we are overdrawn \$4 in our checking account. We can write that as -4 .
- Ask your child to put 4 red beans in the bowl to represent -4 .