

 Notes for parents. Activity next page.**The purpose of this task is to help your child to:**

- work with algebraic equations involving variables, by having them interpret diagrams that visually represent equations

Understanding equations that include variables is an important part of algebra.

Think about this:

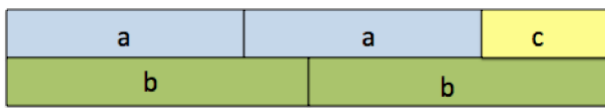
- Make sure that a pencil and paper are available.
- You might like to first try this task yourself, so that you are better placed to discuss it with your child.
- For each equation (and diagram) there is a range of possible answers. This range is narrowed if your child chooses to use whole numbers only.
Do encourage them to suggest some decimal values too.
- It is important that your child attempts the part of the task that requires them to write and draw an equation of their own. It is often in creating their example that the greatest learning occurs.



Sometimes in maths we use letters to stand for number values. Can you solve these letter puzzles? You'll need some paper and a pencil.

Look at these equations and diagrams:

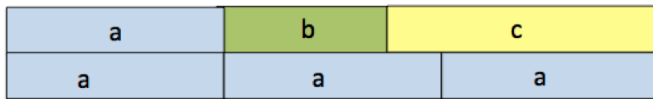
1. $2a + c = 2b$



If $b = 10$, possible values for a and c are: _____

Now write your own value for b , and write possible values for a and c .

2. $a + b + c = 3a$



If $a = 19$, write possible values for b and c . _____

Now write your own value for a , and write possible values for b and c .

3. **Write and draw a diagram of your own equation.** Show the values it could have. Explain your thinking to someone in your family.

