Chapter 1

Algebra

Forming Algebraic Expressions

Thinking Platform

An algebraic expression consists of numbers, letters and operating symbols such as +, –, × and ÷.

Think! Are the expressions in each question the same?
Why or why not? Try replacing the letters with any number to help you.

1. (a) $d + 2$ (b) $2 + d$

2. (a) $2d$ (b) $d + d$ (c) $d + 2$

3. (a) $\frac{d}{2}$ (b) $\frac{1}{2} \times d$

Notes

Teaching Tips
In this chapter, as letters are used to represent unknown numbers, the child has to learn to apply the four basic operations (+, –, × and ÷) to these unknown numbers. For a start, it is helpful to replace the letters with objects that the child is familiar with. For example, the letter *d* could represent a disc. So $d + d$ is $2d$ since a disc and another disc is equal to 2 discs.