Four Basic Parent Functions:

We will examine four basic functions and the parent graphs associated with each. This idea can be expanded to many other functions such as cube root, exponential and logarithmic functions.



To examine transformations of these functions we must consider the following form of each equation:

 $f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$ $f(x) = a(x-h)^3 + k$ $f(x) = a\sqrt{x-h} + k$ f(x) = a|x-h| + k

The values of a, h and k dictate the transformations of each of the functions.

Horizontal Translations:

h dictates whether or not any of the parent functions are translated to the LEFT or to the RIGHT. For Example: In $f(x) = (x - 2)^2$, h = 2. Therefore the parent graph is translated 2 units to the RIGHT.

In $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3}$, h = -3. Therefore the parent graph is translated 3 units to the LEFT.

Reflection Over the x-axis:

If a is negative, then the parent graph is reflected over the x –axis.

For Example: The graph of $f(x) = -\sqrt{x}$ would look like:







