Math in Focus
Singapore Math
by Marshall Cavendish

Family Letters and Activities

Chapter 5 Rates

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your student will learn to work with rates. Some of the skills that your student will practice are:

- *using rates to compare quantities*

- *solving problems involving rates and unit rates*

- *using the equation distance = speed × time (or distance = rate × time) to solve problems*

Activity

You and your student can explore using unit rates to make comparisons in this activity.

- Choose an action that you and your student can both do easily and quickly, such as signing your name or doing a jumping jack.

- Using a timer, have one person complete the same action as many times as possible for 2 minutes and the other person for 3 minutes. Keep track of your totals.

- Write each result as a rate, such as:

$$\frac{\text{Number of times parent writes his or her name}}{3 \text{ minutes}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Number of times student writes his or her name}}{2 \text{ minutes}}$$

- Compare your rates. Who do you think has a lower rate?

- Convert each rate to a unit rate. The denominator of each fraction will be 1 minute:

$$\frac{\text{Number of times student writes his or her name} \div 2}{2 \text{ minutes} \div 2} = \frac{?}{1 \text{ minute}}$$

- Compare the rates again. Is it easier to compare the unit rates or the original rates? Why?

Vocabulary to Practice

A **ratio** is used to compare two quantities with the same unit.

A **rate** is used to compare two quantities with different units.

A **unit rate** is a rate for one unit of a given quantity, such as $3.00 for 1 gallon.

Speed is a special rate that compares a distance to a unit of time, such as miles per hour.

Online Resources

For additional Parent Resources *my.hrw.com*