SCHOOL-to-HOME CONNECTIONS

Chapter 3

Fractions and Mixed Numbers

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will learn about fractions and mixed numbers. Skills your child will practice include:

- identifying equivalent fractions
- writing fractions in simplest form
- comparing and ordering fractions
- converting mixed numbers to improper fractions, and vice versa
- adding and subtracting like fractions and mixed numbers with like denominators
- multiplying fractions by a whole number
- solving real-world problems

Math Practice

There are numerous real-life opportunities for your child to work with fractions. At the end of this chapter, you may want to carry out these activities with your child. These activities will help your child work with fractions.

Activity 1

- Have your child use a plate to draw a circle on a piece of paper. Help your child cut the circle into 8 equal "pancake slices". Give your child 3 slices and take 1 slice for yourself.
- Have your child add his or her share of $\frac{3}{8}$ and your share of $\frac{1}{8}$ to find out the total fraction that has been taken away.
- Then, have your child use subtraction from a whole to find out the fraction of the pancake left.

Activity 2

- Roll a number cube to get a number.
- Ask your child to do the same.
- Record the two numbers on a piece of paper.
- Ask your child to use the numbers to write a fraction.
- Then, have your child find the product of a whole number, for example, 3 and the fraction.
- Repeat the activity several times.

Math Talk

Discuss with your child ways to find equivalent fractions.

$\frac{1}{2} \overset{\times 2}{=} \frac{2}{4}$ $\quad$ $\frac{1}{2} \overset{\times 4}{=} \frac{4}{8}$

$\frac{4}{8} \overset{\div 2}{=} \frac{2}{4} \overset{\div 2}{=} \frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{1}{2}$ cannot be simplified further. So, $\frac{1}{2}$ is the **simplest form** of $\frac{4}{8}$.

Explain to your child that a **mixed number** represents the sum of a whole number and a fraction, for example, $2\frac{1}{4}$.

An **improper fraction** has a numerator that is equal to or greater than its denominator. It represents a fraction that is greater than or equal to 1, for example, $\frac{7}{3}$.

Discuss with your child ways to rename an improper fraction as a mixed number, and vice versa.

$$\frac{9}{4} = \frac{8}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$$
$$= 2 + \frac{1}{4}$$
$$= 2\frac{1}{4}$$

$$3\frac{3}{4} = 3 + \frac{3}{4}$$
$$= \frac{12}{4} + \frac{3}{4}$$
$$= \frac{15}{4}$$



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