

FAMILY MATH

Halves and Fourths

Dear Family,

Your student is exploring the idea of equal shares by folding, cutting, or drawing lines to partition or split shapes. They discuss whether the parts or shares that result are equal and learn to name the equal-sized parts as halves and fourths, or quarters. Then they reason about the number of equal shares and the size of the shares. Students come to understand that the more shares of a whole there are, the smaller each share is. Your student is also applying this understanding to tell time to the half hour using the term *half past*.

Key Terms

fourth/fourths/fourth of

half/halves/half of

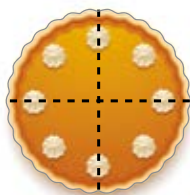
half past

partition

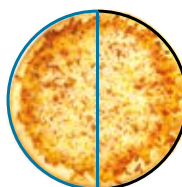
quarter/quarter of



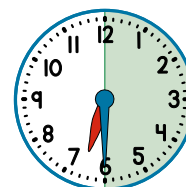
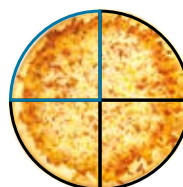
The paper is folded into 2 equal parts called halves. 1 part is 1 half of the whole.



The pie is partitioned into 4 equal shares called fourths or quarters. 1 part is 1 fourth of the whole.



1 half of a pizza is larger than 1 fourth of the same size pizza. The shares are smaller when the pizza is cut into more parts.



The clock is in the shape of a circle. The minute hand has gone halfway around the clock, so it is half past, or 30 minutes past the hour.

At-Home Activities

Fold Equal Shares

Practice folding paper into equal shares with your student. Provide a newspaper page, a paper plate, or some other scrap paper, and ask your student to fold it into 2 shares. Discuss whether the shares are equal, and why. Have them name equal shares as halves. Try the activity again by folding an item into 4 equal shares and naming the shares as fourths or quarters.

Playful Partitions

Find opportunities to review halves and fourths with your student in everyday activities. For example, consider doing the following when you are preparing food.

- Slice a sandwich into 2 or 4 equal pieces and ask your student to name each piece as 1 half or 1 fourth.
- Invite your student to break food items such as graham crackers or cheese slices into halves or quarters.
- Discuss where to make cuts in food to partition them into halves or fourths.