Math in Focus
SCHOOL to HOME
Connections

Chapter 14 Fractions

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will learn about fractions as parts of a region or parts of a set.
Some of the skills your child will practice are:

- reading, writing, and identifying fractions of wholes
- identifying equivalent fractions
- writing fractions in simplest form
- comparing and ordering fractions
- adding and subtracting like fractions

Activity

An understanding of fractions is important for various real-life situations such as in cooking. Help your child connect fractions to division and build wholes from fractional parts.

- Have your child record what he or she does in a particular day. For example, the amount of time he or she spends in school, playing, watching television, reading, sleeping. Help your child to round the amount of time to the nearest hour.

- Then have him or her write the amount of time each activity takes as a fraction of the total number of hours in a day. For example, if he or she spent 2 hours playing basketball, the fraction is $\frac{2}{24}$.

- Finally, have your child add up all the fractions to make sure they equal one whole. You may want to work with smaller denominators first as a warm up to this activity. For example, $\frac{2}{24} + \frac{3}{24} + \frac{1}{24} + \frac{4}{24} + \frac{4}{24} + \frac{10}{24} = \frac{24}{24}$.
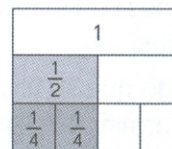
Vocabulary to Practice
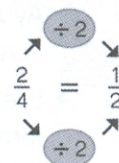
A fraction is a part of a **whole**.

A **numerator** is the number above the line in a fraction. It shows the number of required parts of a whole.

A **denominator** is the number below the line in a fraction. It shows the number of equal parts into which the whole is divided.

$\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ name the same parts of a whole. They are **equivalent fractions**.

$\frac{1}{2}$ is a fraction in its **simplest form**.

$$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Fractions with the same denominators are **like fractions**.

Fractions with different denominators are **unlike fractions**.