

THE NUMERACY NOOK

Hello Everyone

In this issue we will look at the topic of 'Fractions' and some simple ways you can assist your child at home. When we teach 'Fractions' in the classroom there are two main components:

- A fraction is an equal part of a whole e.g. shade one half of a shape.
- A fraction as a part of a collection of objects e.g. 'What is one half of 12?

You could tell your child that 'A fraction is any part of a group, number or whole'.

As children move into Year 1, they will begin to learn about fractions. They will begin with recognising that one-half is one of two equal parts of a whole.

In Year 2, students will learn about halves, quarters, and eighths of shapes and collections.

In Year 3, students will continue their learning of the unit fractions and include one half, one fourth, one third, and one fifth.

When you're starting out with teaching fractions, using objects will help your child to understand. There are many foods which are great for teaching fractions. Here are some ideas:

- Playdough is a great place to start learning about fractions with young children.
- Discuss fractions whilst making your child's lunch together. You can cut fruit and sandwiches into halves and fourths.
- Dried pasta or beans are excellent for finding a part of a collection. You can also let your child know that finding half of a collection is the same as 'sharing' or 'dividing' by 2.
- If pizza is on the menu, remember to emphasize the importance of every slice of pizza being of equal size.

Young children learn best by doing and when cooking together, your child will also be learning about fractions. Nomsterchef.com has information on Learning through cooking: Fractions.

The most important thing to remember when teaching fractions is to go slowly and to have fun. Provide lots of repetition until you feel your child has a good understanding of the concept.

Kind regards

Maths Curriculum Team