

Dear Family,

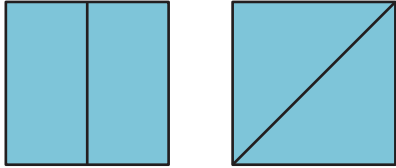
This week your child is learning about equal parts of shapes.




Your child will learn to divide circles, squares, and rectangles into halves and fourths. This will help your child prepare to work with fractions in later grades.

whole	halves	fourths
	half of the whole 2 equal parts	fourth of the whole 4 equal parts

Sometimes you can show equal parts in more than one way.



You can also show unequal parts. This square shows unequal parts.



Invite your child to share what he or she knows about dividing shapes into equal parts by doing the following activity together.



Breaking Shapes Into Equal Parts Activity

Materials: paper, pencil, scissors, and crayons or markers

Tell your child that you are going to pretend to divide food shapes into equal parts to share.

- Trace two copies of the circle and square below. Cut out each shape.
- Have your child color each shape to look like a food item. For example, a circle can be colored to look like a pizza or pancake. A square can be colored to look like a sandwich or cracker.
- Ask your child to fold one of the circles to make two equal parts so that each person sharing the “food” gets the same amount. Watch to see that your child folds the circle in half, and provide assistance as needed. Have your child trace the fold line with a crayon or marker. Ask what the equal parts are called (halves). Repeat with one of the squares.
- Then ask your child to fold the remaining circle to make four equal parts so that four people can share. Your child should fold the circle in half, and then in half again. Ask what the equal parts are called (fourths). Repeat with the remaining square.

