

Fractions - What My Child Needs to Know

Grade 1:

Your child should understand fractions as equal sharing (for example, dividing a pizza into 4 equal parts). They should use the words halves, quarters, thirds.

Grade 2:

Your child should understand that if you divide an object into more pieces, the pieces get smaller. For example, if you divide a pie into 4, the pieces will be bigger than if you divide the same size pie into 8. They should understand that if they share with more people, their share gets smaller.

By the end of grade 2, they should also understand that if pizzas are cut into quarters and they have 9 pieces of pizza, the result is that there is more than 1 pizza. They should be able to use materials to re-create the $2 \frac{1}{4}$ pizzas.

Using fraction circles or strips, your child should be able to determine that $\frac{2}{3}$ is greater than $\frac{1}{2}$, but lesser than $\frac{3}{4}$.

Grade 3:

By the end of grade 3, your child should be able to divide whole objects into equal parts. He/she should also be able to name the parts (one half, three quarters or three fourths, three thirds...) They do not have to be able to write the fraction on their own.

Grade 4:

By the end of grade 4, your child should be able to represent a fraction with manipulatives, a picture, words, and standard notation ($\frac{1}{2}$). He/she should also be able to explain what the numerator and denominator represent. The numerator is the number of parts being considered and the denominator is the number of fractional parts of a whole or a set.

He/she should be able to compare fractions where the numerators are identical ($\frac{1}{4}$ is greater than $\frac{1}{5}$ because the size of the part is larger) or the denominators are identical ($\frac{4}{5}$ is greater than $\frac{3}{5}$ because there are more parts).

He/she should be able to compare fractions to the benchmarks of 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1.

He/she should be able to explain that equivalent fractions are the same using fractions circles/strips or other materials. ($\frac{1}{4}$ is equivalent to $\frac{2}{8}$).

Grade 5:

By the end of grade 5, your child should be able to represent, compare, and order fractions with the same denominator including improper fractions and mixed numbers using materials, pictures, and standard notation.

He/she should be able to show and explain equivalent fractions using concrete materials/pictures.

Grade 6:

By the end of grade 6, your child should be able to represent, compare, and order fractions with different denominators including improper fractions and mixed numbers using materials, pictures, and standard notation.

Grade 7:**Grade 8:**