Home Link Help: Fractions of a Collection

Grade 2, Home Link 8-3. 8-6

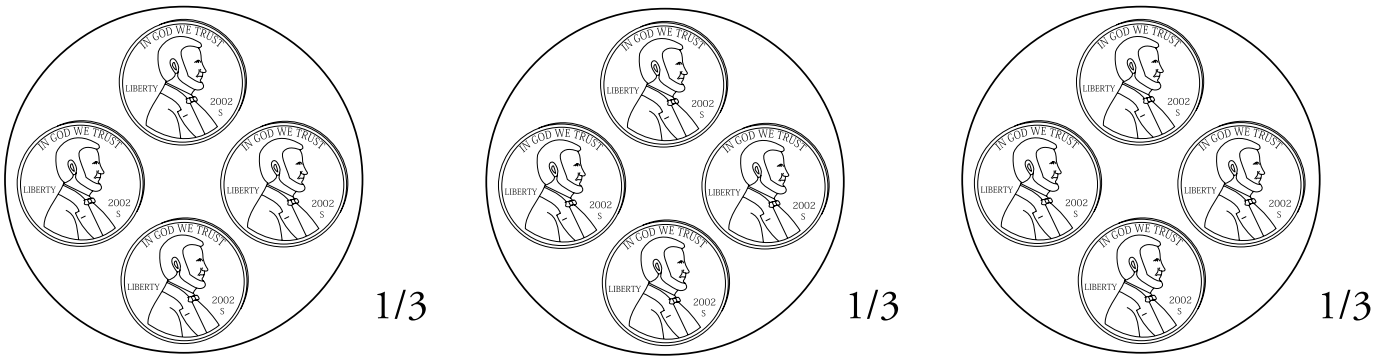
Fractions of a collection of objects is a context in which children explore fraction concepts in *2nd Grade Everyday Mathematics*. When working with fractions of a collection, the collection is the ONE. Subsets of items from the collection represent the fractional parts.

Help with Home Link Problems

In this Home Link, notice that children are exploring the relationship between equal sharing situations and fractions. Fraction notation represents a division problem, and this is an early opportunity for children to make this connection.

To support your child in solving the equal sharing problems, consider doing the following:

On a piece of paper draw 3 large circles representing the 3 people that are sharing the pennies. Have your child use pennies and distribute them one by one into 3 groups. As they place the pennies in the circles, first each circle should have 1 penny; then each should have 2 pennies; and so on. Continue until all the pennies have been placed into the circles.



Ask your child how many pennies does each person receive? [*Answer: 4 pennies*] Ask your child to explain how they know that the 3 people will each get 4 pennies.

Then point to 1 of the circles and talk about how this represents one group of pennies or the pennies that 1 person out of 3 people will receive. 1 out of the 3 is the same as 1/3. Since there are 4 pennies in 1/3, 1/3 of 12 is 4.

Ask your child to continue with this reasoning and think about how many pennies 2/3 of the people (2 out of 3) would receive. [*Answer: 8 pennies*]. Since 2 out of 3 is the same as 2/3 and there are 4 pennies in each of the thirds (8 total in two thirds), 2/3 of 12 is 8.

Extra Practice Ideas

Use pennies or find various objects to practice similar problems. Since the emphasis is on fractional parts of a whole, you should pick amounts that can be divided into equal groups. Talk with your child about the fractional part each group represents. For example, if 15 pennies are being shared between 5 people, each person will get 1/5 of the whole or 3 pennies. Therefore, 3 pennies is 1/5 of 15.