Multiplication and Division: Key Skill 15



Make and use equal groups as a strategy to divide



Division is often talked about as 'sharing'. We share out the items in a big group to make smaller groups.



Putting objects together in *equal groups* helps children to understand early multiplication and division. Encourage your child to physically move objects to create equal groups.

There are 2 types of sharing problems. Children work with the total to give each group a specific number of items. Here's the difference:

- Share 10 pencils into 5 groups. How many pencils are in each group?
 Share 12 objects into 3 groups. How many objects are in each group? The key element is that the child has to work out that there are 3 groups of 4.
- Share 10 pencils so that each child gets 2 each. How many children get a pencil?
 Share 12 objects so that there are 3 in each group. How many groups are there? The key element is that the child has to work out that there are 4 groups.



Start with a bigger group of objects, and share them out equally. Here are some examples:

• 'We have 10 apples and 2 children. How many apples will we give each child?'

Try a number line to divide! We skip count backwards on the line and then see how many skips we made to get to 0. The number of skips (or hops) is our answer! For $12 \div 3$ we draw a number line, then start at 12. We jump backwards by 3s to 9, 6, 3 and then 0. We jumped 4 times so the answer is $4.12 \div 3 = 4$

Make physical groups and share out real objects. Help divide and share out baked treats, fruit pieces or even dinner so that they are all equal.



WEB LINKS go to:

Notes: Using groups Notes: Empty number lines Video: Division strategies Video: Division in action Video: Division into groups Video: Division example

Fractions and Decimals: Key Skill 16



Show what half an object is. Know that a half is 2 equal parts of a whole



A **half** is 1 of 2 equal parts of a whole.



This is the beginning of learning about fractions. Encourage your child to discover that a fraction is a part of a whole. The whole could be an object, a group of objects or a number.

Show that to create a half, a whole is split into 2 equal parts.



Use food! Slice in half a pizza, cake, banana etc. Explain that both sides are equal, so the item has been halved.

Read the story "Give Me Half" by Stuart J. Murphy with your child.



WEB LINKS go to:

<u>Video: Halving numbers</u> <u>Video: Halves in the real world</u> <u>Video: "Give Me Half" book reading</u>