

Fractions and Decimals: Key Skill 15

Understand what one-half means



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.



Find as many opportunities to create half in daily life and share them with your child;

- Pour half a glass of milk
- Grab half a dozen eggs
- Use half a cup of flour when cooking
- Cut an apple in half
- Play outside for half an hour
- Explore the northern or southern hemisphere (half of the world) on a globe
- Bring oranges for half time in their weekend sport game
- Play with half the pink playdough
- Cut the ribbon or string in half



WEB LINKS go to:

[Video: Introduction to half in the classroom](#)

[Video: How to teach a half](#)

[Video: Ernie's half eaten sandwich](#)

Fractions and Decimals: Key Skill 16

Show halves of objects using drawings



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



This is the beginning of learning about fractions. Work with 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.



Make a folding butterfly artwork where you paint 1 half of the paper, fold the clean half over and press onto the painted half. Cut out the butterfly! You can do this with any shape or object that can easily cut in half – paint an apple, ball, tram or a robot etc.

Make a circle tree ([see Video: Making circle trees](#)).

Take turns drawing half a shape on a piece of paper e.g. a triangle, circle or square. Cover the half and the other person has to draw the other half of what they think the shape is. See if you can make a full shape!



WEB LINKS go to:

[Notes: Butterfly artwork instructions and template](#)

[Video: Introduction to half in the classroom](#)

[Video: How to teach a half](#)

[Video: Ernie's half eaten sandwich](#)

[Video: Making circle trees](#)