

Fractions

This half term we will be recognising and finding fractions of shapes and numbers. The children will already know what a half is, particularly of a shape. They may have forgotten how to find half of number.

Key Vocabulary:

fraction, half, quarter, equal parts, equal groups, a whole

Key sentences:

Halves are two equal parts of a whole.

Quarters are four equal parts of a whole.

A half of 16 is eight. A quarter of 16 is four.

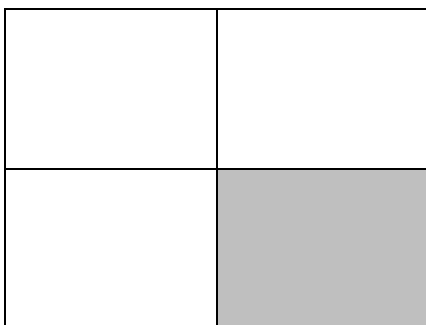
Before some activities with halves and quarters of shapes why not follow this little plan to discuss what fractions are with your child.

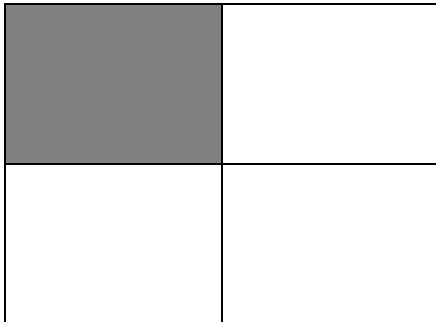
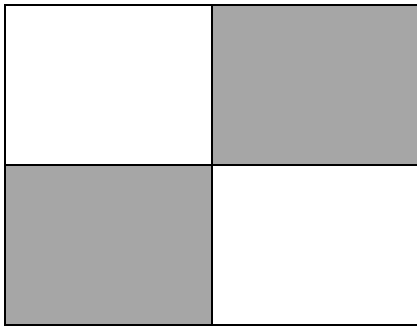
Show your child a piece of A4 paper, and fold it in $\frac{1}{2}$, and then open it out again. Ask your child what you have done to the paper. What do we call each part? Remind your child how we write this? Write $\frac{1}{2}$ on each part. Ask your child how many $\frac{1}{2}$ s make a whole. Fold an identical piece of paper into $\frac{1}{4}$ s, by folding it in $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ again. I've folded this piece of paper into 4 equal parts we call these $\frac{1}{4}$ s. Write $\frac{1}{4}$ on each section. Ask your child how many $\frac{1}{4}$ s make a whole? How many $\frac{1}{4}$ s make one $\frac{1}{2}$? Give your child a piece of A4 paper and ask them to fold their shape in $\frac{1}{2}$ and then $\frac{1}{2}$ again to make halves and quarters. Are there other ways they could fold a piece of A4 to make halves and quarters? See if they can find other folds e.g. diagonally.

*Once your child can fold paper into halves and quarters you can ask them to find halves and quarters of numbers of objects. Provide them with a number of objects which can be halved and quartered e.g. the 4 times table: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24 etc. Remember to tell them that halves are two equal groups of objects and quarters are 4 equal groups of objects. Then simply show them how you can take the objects and divide them into 2 or 4 equal groups. This should ideally be done while counting them out in 1s. Then ask them to count $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ and tell you. You can then move on to asking them to find a quarter of say 16 by counting out 16 objects, dividing them into equal groups of 4 and then counting one of the groups. At this stage just ask them to a quarter or a half. It is worth pointing out that **a** half means 1 half and **a** quarter means 1 quarter as this can cause some trouble for children.*

Activities:

Have your child tell you what fraction of the shapes have been shaded. Then ask them how do they know?





True or False:

A quarter of 8 is 3?

A half of 8 is 4?

A quarter of 12 is 3?

A half of 20 is 10?

Word problems

Mr Riley had 16 pencils and he gave $\frac{1}{2}$ to the children. How many pencils did the children get?

Mikey brought 24 cakes to school on his birthday. He shared them with the class and took $\frac{1}{4}$ home. How many did he take home?