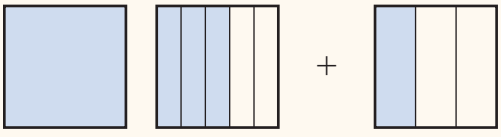
Add Fractions

LESSON 12

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to add fractions with unlike denominators.

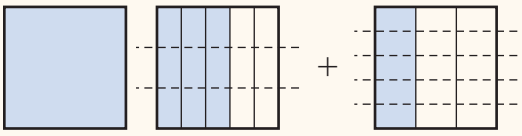
Here is how a model can show fraction addition, such as $1\frac{3}{5}+\frac{1}{3}$.



$1\frac{3}{5}$ + $\frac{1}{3}$

The denominators, 5 and 3, tell how many equal parts are in the whole. 5 and 3 are **unlike denominators**.

The parts of the whole are different sizes, thirds and fifths. You cannot add different-size parts. You need to divide the model to show equal-size parts, fifteenths.



$1\frac{3}{5}=1\frac{9}{15}$ $\frac{1}{3}=\frac{5}{15}$

The denominator, 15, tells that there are 15 equal parts in the whole. So, 15 and 15 are **like denominators**.

Then add. $1\frac{3}{5}+\frac{1}{3}=1\frac{9}{15}+\frac{5}{15}=1\frac{14}{15}$

Some other ways your child can think about adding fractions are to use a number line model or to use multiplication to replace the given fractions with equivalent fractions that have the same denominator.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about adding fractions by doing the following activity together.

ACTIVITY ADDING FRACTIONS

Do this activity with your child to add fractions.

Work together with your child to solve real-world problems about adding fractions.

- Suppose you want to make some healthy snacks and you have $\frac{7}{8}$ cup of cream cheese and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup raisins.
- Look at the two recipes below. Add fractions to decide if there is enough cream cheese and raisins to make both recipes.

Recipe

Recipe for Creamed Crackers

Ingredients:

12 crackers (any variety)

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream cheese

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup raisins

Directions:

Spread cream cheese evenly on crackers.

Sprinkle with raisins.

Recipe

Recipe for Celery Logs

Ingredients:

6 two-inch pieces of celery

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup cream cheese

$\frac{1}{8}$ cup raisins

Directions:

Spread cream cheese evenly on celery.

Sprinkle with raisins.

Answer: There is enough cream cheese and enough raisins to make both recipes.