Dear Family,

This week your child is learning how fractions and division are related.
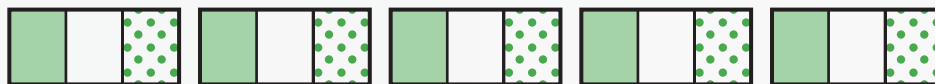
He or she might see a problem like this:

> Three family members equally share 5 granola bars. How much does each family member receive?

This word problem can be represented as a division problem. The family equally shares 5 granola bars among 3 people, so the division problem to solve is $5 \div 3$.

A model is a useful way to show the problem.
The model below shows 5 wholes. Each whole is divided into 3 parts.

Each family member receives $\frac{1}{3}$ of each of 5 whole bars. So, the answer to the division problem $5 \div 3$ is $\frac{5}{3}$. You can say that the fraction $\frac{5}{3}$ represents the division problem $5 \div 3$.

$$\frac{1}{3} \times 5 = \frac{5}{3}$$

This shows how fractions and division are related.
You can think of fractions as the division of two numbers.

Another way to write the fraction $\frac{5}{3}$ is to show it as a mixed number. So each family member receives $\frac{5}{3}$, or $1\frac{2}{3}$, granola bars.

$$\frac{5}{3} = 1\frac{2}{3}$$

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about how fractions and division are related by doing the following activity together.

NEXT →

Fractions as Division Activity

Work with your child to find opportunities to practice modeling a division situation as a fraction.

- Together with your child, think of things that can be shared equally among family members, such as boxes of crackers or raisins, or bags of grapes or trail mix.

- Choose one idea. Work together with your child to show how to equally divide a number of the items among the people in your family.

  - Example: 4 family members equally share 7 bags of trail mix.

- Have your child write the idea as a division problem.

  - Example: $7 \div 4 = \frac{7}{4}$

- Have your child explain how much of the item each family member will get.

  - Example: Each person will get $\frac{7}{4}$, or $1\frac{3}{4}$, bags of trail mix.