

Dear Family,

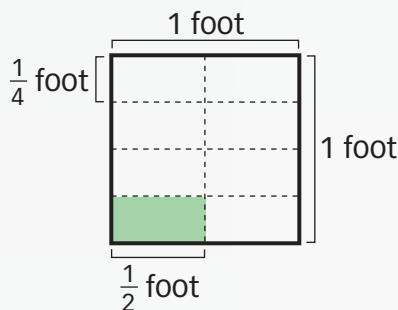
This week your child is learning to multiply fractions using an area model.



He or she might see a problem like this:

Mark has a square placemat that measures 1 foot on each side. He divides it in half vertically and in fourths horizontally. He wants to decorate each part with a different pattern. What is the area of each part of the placemat?

To understand the problem, your child could draw and label a picture.



The dashed lines show 8 equal parts. Each part is $\frac{1}{2}$ foot wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ foot long. Each part is $\frac{1}{8}$ of the whole. Multiply to find the area of each part. The area of each part of the placemat is $\frac{1}{8}$ square foot.

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ foot} \times \frac{1}{4} \text{ foot} = \frac{1}{8} \text{ square foot}$$

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about multiplying fractions with area models by doing the following activity together.



Multiplying Fractions Activity



Materials: a bowl and the ingredients shown in the recipe

- Look at the recipe for snack mix below.
- Rewrite the recipe so that it will make one-fourth as much by multiplying the amount of each ingredient by $\frac{1}{4}$. This will make a small amount.
- Make the recipe and enjoy!

Recipe for Snack Mix

Ingredients:

$\frac{2}{4}$ cup pretzels

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup nuts of your choice

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup dried fruit

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup chocolate chips (optional)



Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a bowl.

