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About the Mathematics in This Unit

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in mathematics called *How Many Noses? How Many Eyes?* The focus of this unit is on identifying attributes of data and objects; collecting, sorting, and representing data; and using data to solve problems.

Throughout this unit, students will be working toward these goals:

Benchmarks/Goals	Examples
Sort a set of objects by a given attribute and order the groups based on the number in each	Grab a handful of pattern blocks. 1 How many of each block did you grab? Shape How 1 2 1 0 3 2 Put the numbers in order: 1 1 2 3
Using data to represent and solve a real-world problem	Are there enough chairs for everyone in our class?

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About the Mathematics in This Unit

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities and discuss the underlying concepts. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

In the coming weeks you will receive more information about this unit as well as suggestions for activities to do at home.

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Related Activities to Try at Home

Dear Family,

The activities suggested below are related to the mathematics we are currently studying in school. Doing them with your child can enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Sorting Your child can sort collections of objects you have at home: coins, stamps, toys, containers, even laundry. He or she can sort just for fun or to organize some things in your home. As your child sorts a collection, ask him or her questions, such as: "How are some of the buttons the same? How could you sort them into groups? What is the same about all of these? Is there a different way you could sort them?" Your child can also count the number of items in each group and compare the totals.

Surveys In this unit, students conduct their own surveys. Help your child take a survey of your family, friends, or neighbors. Your child can choose a question that is of interest to him or her, create a sheet to record people's responses, ask people the question, and then record their responses. Afterward, ask your child some questions about the results of the survey. For example, ask: "What did you find out? How many people said they liked the ocean? How many people didn't like the ocean? Did more people like the ocean than did not? Were you surprised by people's responses?"

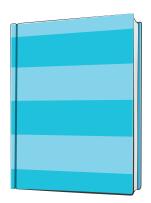
Counting to Collect Data You can encourage your child to collect data about the number of certain items in your home: How many forks are there? How many windows? How many chairs? How many doors?



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Related Activities to Try at Home



Math and Literature You can find the following books in your local library and read them together.

Aber, Linda Williams. Grandma's Button Box (Math Matters).

Baer, Edith. This Is the Way We Eat Our Lunch.

Keenan, Sheila. More or Less a Mess.

Murphy, Stuart. The Best Vacation Ever.

Pluckrose, Henry Arthur. Sorting (Math Counts).

Todd, Mark. Food Trucks!