

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning more about fractions. We will learn how to compare fractions, order fractions, and find equivalent fractions.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice with fractions.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to compare fractions that have the same numerator.

Vocabulary

common denominator A common multiple of the denominators of two or more fractions

denominator The part of the fraction below the line, which tells how many equal parts there are in the whole or in a group

equivalent fractions Two or more fractions that name the same amount

numerator The part of a fraction above the line, which tells how many parts are being counted

simplest form A fraction in which 1 is the only number that can divide evenly into the numerator and the denominator

MODEL Compare Fractions with the Same Numerator

This is one way we will be comparing fractions that have the same numerator.

STEP 1

Compare $\frac{4}{10}$ and $\frac{4}{6}$.

Look at the numerators.

Each numerator is 4.

The numerators are the same.

STEP 2

Since the numerators are the same, look at the denominators, 10 and 6.

The more pieces a whole is divided into, the smaller the pieces are. Tenths are smaller pieces than sixths.

So, $\frac{4}{10}$ is a smaller fraction of the whole than $\frac{4}{6}$.

$\frac{4}{10}$ is less than $\frac{4}{6}$. $\frac{4}{10} < \frac{4}{6}$

Tips

Identifying Fewer Pieces

The fewer pieces a whole is divided into, the larger the pieces are. For example, when a whole is divided into 6 equal pieces, the pieces are larger than when the same size whole is divided into 10 equal pieces. So, $\frac{4}{6}$ is greater than ($>$) $\frac{4}{10}$.

Activity

Play a card game to help your child practice comparing fractions. On several cards, write a pair of fractions with the same numerator and draw a circle between the fractions. Players take turns drawing a card and telling whether *greater than* ($>$) or *less than* ($<$) belongs in the circle.