

# FAMILY MATH

## Equivalent Fractions

Dear Family,

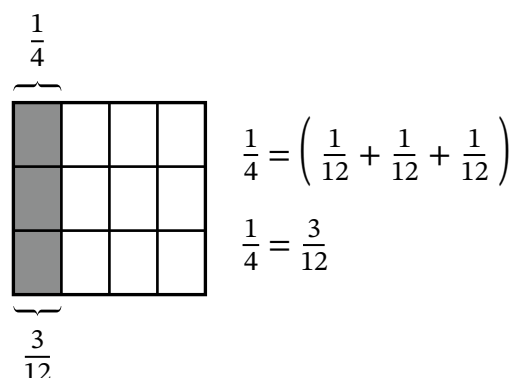
Your student is learning to write equivalent fractions by renaming the units, or denominator, of the fraction. They use models such as tape diagrams, area models, and number lines along with multiplication and division to make equivalent fractions. They also learn to write equivalent fractions for fractions greater than 1 and for mixed numbers. Finding equivalent fractions prepares your student for comparing, adding, and subtracting fractions in future lessons.

### Key Terms

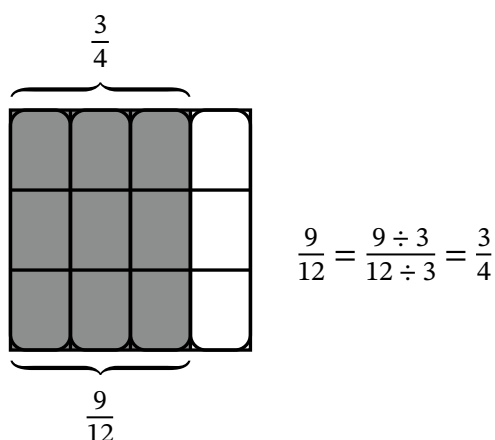
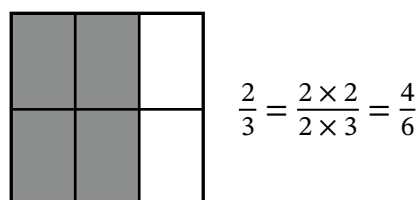
denominator

numerator

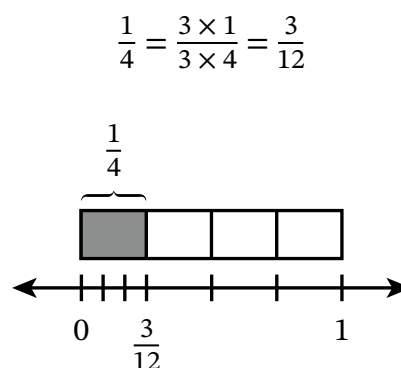
$\frac{1}{2}$  ← Numerator  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  ← Denominator



Students learn that the denominator of a fraction indicates the total number of units in the whole and the numerator indicates the number of selected parts.



Students break apart fractions into smaller unit fractions. They can add the smaller unit fractions together to make equivalent fractions.



Area models and number lines help students see how the number of parts and the size of the parts change when multiplication or division is used to create an equivalent fraction.

## At-Home Activities

### Naming Numerators and Denominators

Help your student practice by using the terms *numerator* and *denominator* to describe the parts of fractions. Look for fractions in your daily activities, such as when measuring ingredients to follow recipes. Ask your student to identify the numerator, which is the number of selected parts. Ask your student to identify the denominator, which is the total number of units in the whole. Then discuss what the numerator and the denominator each represent.

### What is Half?

With your student, practice naming 1 half of something in different situations. Consider using the following examples.

- There are 4 quarters in a dollar. What is half of this amount? (2 quarters) What fraction of 4 quarters is 2 quarters?  $\left(\frac{2}{4} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2}\right)$
- There are 8 ounces in a measuring cup. What is half of this amount? (4 ounces) What fraction of 8 ounces is 4 ounces?  $\left(\frac{4}{8} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2}\right)$
- There are 12 months in a year. How many months are in half of a year? (6 months) What fraction of 12 months is 6 months?  $\left(\frac{6}{12} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2}\right)$
- There are 60 minutes in an hour. How many minutes are in half of an hour? (30 minutes) What fraction of 60 minutes is 30 minutes?  $\left(\frac{30}{60} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2}\right)$