

FAMILY MATH

Exploration of Tenths

Dear Family,

Your student is using what they know about tenths as a fractional unit to learn about tenths as a place value unit. As they did with whole-number place value units, your student uses area models, number lines, and place value disks to represent tenths and explore the relationship between tenths and ones. They use the word *and* when reading decimal numbers to show where the whole number units and tenths are separated by a decimal point.

Key Terms

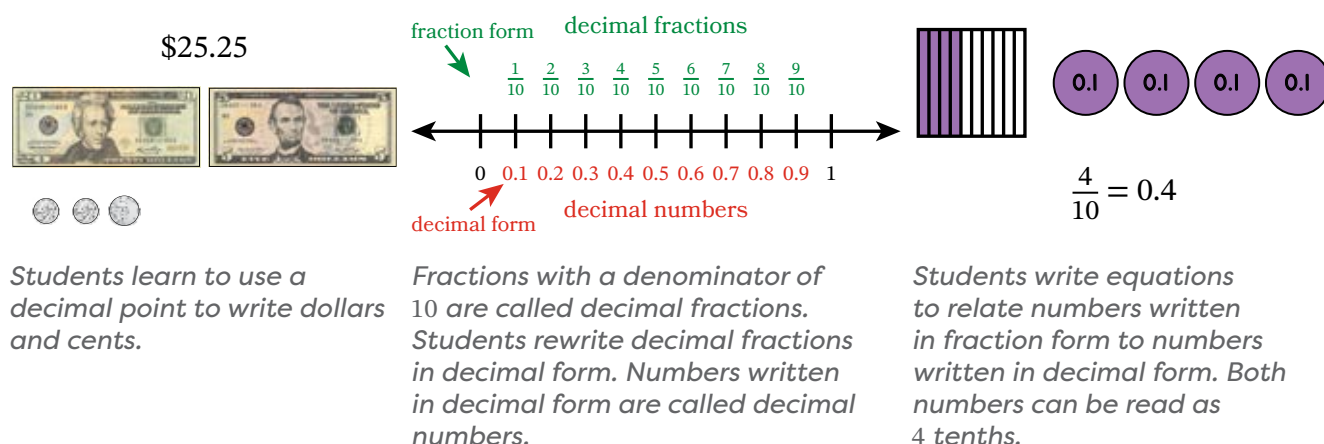
decimal form

decimal fraction

decimal number

decimal point

tenths



At-Home Activity

Dime Time

Play a game with your student to help them practice reasoning about tenths.

- Gather two pieces of paper, a pencil, a cup, and up to 19 dimes. (If you do not have any dimes then draw circles on a piece of paper. Write 10¢ on each circle to represent each dime, and cut the circles out.)
- Trace the top of the cup on one piece of paper to make a circle. Then place the dimes in the cup.
- Tell your student to dump out the dimes while trying to land some dimes in the circle.

- Count the dimes that landed in the circle. On the second piece of paper, have your student write an equation that shows that the decimal fraction is equal to the decimal number that represents the value of the dimes in the circle. After writing their equation, ask your student to say the equation out loud. For example, if 4 dimes land in the circle, your student would write $\frac{4}{10} = 0.4$ and then say, “4 tenths is equal to zero and 4 tenths.” If 15 dimes land in the circle then your student would write $15 \text{ tenths} = 1.5$ and then say, “15 tenths is equal to 1 and 5 tenths.”
- Repeat the process. Consider drawing different-size circles each time.
- For more practice, have your student also write and say the value of the dimes that did not land in the circle.