FAMILY MATH

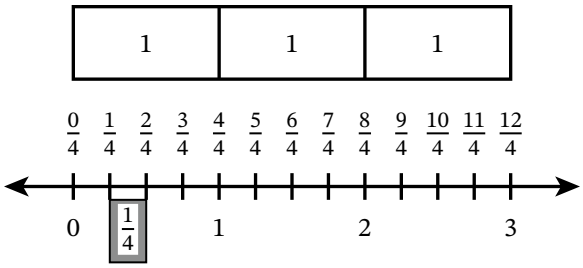
Comparing Fractions

Dear Family,

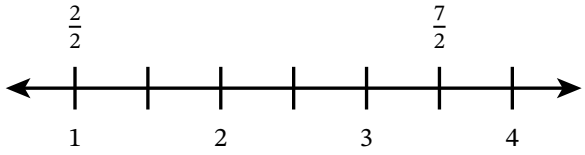
Key Term

fraction greater than 1

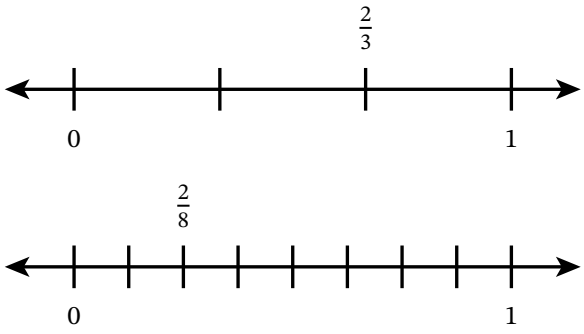
In previous lessons, your student represented fractions from 0 to 1 on a number line. Now they are learning to compare fractions greater than 1 on the number line. They write and compare fractions equal to whole numbers. Students see that fractions farther to the right on a number line are greater than those to the left because they are farther away from 0. They learn that when two fractions have the same numerator but different units, they can be compared by thinking about their unit size.



Students extend the number line beyond 1. They use fraction strips to draw and label tick marks between each whole number.



Students can represent multiple fractions on the same number line to compare them. They see that fractions to the left on the number line are less than fractions to the right.



$\frac{2}{8}$ is less than $\frac{2}{3}$. $\frac{2}{3}$ is greater than $\frac{2}{8}$.

$\frac{2}{8} < \frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{2}{3} > \frac{2}{8}$

Two different number lines can be used together to compare fractions. 2 thirds is greater than 2 eighths because thirds are larger units than eighths.

At-Home Activity

A Recipe for Fractions

Look for recipes that use a whole-number amount of an ingredient. Help your student portion out the whole-number amount by using a measuring tool that holds only a fractional amount. For example, if a recipe calls for 2 cups of flour, provide a measuring cup that holds only $\frac{1}{3}$ cup. Ask your student to figure out how many scoops are needed to make 2 cups. Then use the situation to help your student identify a fraction that is equivalent to the whole number. For example, because you used six $\frac{1}{3}$-cup scoops to equal 2 cups, $\frac{6}{3}$ is equivalent to 2.