

# Year 1 Fractions:

## A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to learning fractions can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring fractions together. Whether your child is learning is just learning to spot halves or they're able to recognise a range of fractions, there'll be a suitable step for your child.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

finding halves and quarters



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Fractions

## What Does the English National Curriculum Say about Fractions for Year 1?

The national curriculum for England expects children in year 1 to be able to recognise halves and quarters and to be able to divide whole things into those fractions. Children are also expected to be able to separate a number of objects into equal groupings. For example, knowing that half of eight sweets is four sweets, or that a quarter of those sweets is two. Children are also expected to be able to combine fractions back together to make a whole. For example, four quarters of pizza make a whole pizza.

Any food that is round, such as pies, pizzas and cakes are great for introducing children to fractions. However, it is important to remember that fractions, such as half, refer to dividing something **equally** into two. Just because a pizza is sliced into four pieces doesn't make those pieces quarters. A quarter is an equal fourth of an object.

## Writing Fractions

In year 1, children don't have to write fractions in numbers, although many schools do introduce this as children are only focusing on quarter and half. Fractions tend to be written with the numerator directly above the denominator, separated by a horizontal line:

half is written as  $\frac{1}{2}$  rather than 1/2  
quarter is written as  $\frac{1}{4}$  rather than 1/4

This becomes more important as your child progresses through primary school when they will need to add and subtract fractions.

### Sharing is Kind

Using sweets, marbles or pom-poms, encourage your child to share out into half and quarters. Make sure that you begin with a multiple of four items (4, 8, 12, 16) so that your child can always end up with an equal amount in each group.

### Folding Paper

Help your child to fold a piece of paper into halves and then halves again. Unfold the paper to reveal how the paper has been split into quarters. Can your child draw a different picture in each quarter?

### Pizza Portions Must be Equal

Buy or make a cheese and tomato pizza and decorate it at home together with your child's favourite toppings; sharing the toppings out in equal quarters. Cut it into two or four equal parts then decorate. Remember - to be a true quarter, there must be the same amount of each topping on each fraction.

### What Is Half Your Age?

Encourage family members and friends to work out half their age. Can your child double it? If you want your child to try halving your age, remember lots of children will only be able to half even numbers so you might need to round up your age! Remember that parents and grandparents have ages that are large numbers, so brothers, sisters and friends might be easier to start with.

## Step 1

### Pizza Fractions

Pizzas can be a great hands-on way to introduce children to the idea of fractions. This printable pizza activity features a range of different bases (including one separated into halves and one quarters). Print these and discuss what halves and quarters are with your child. Then, look at the special toppings that can be added. Demonstrate how to make equal halves using three mushrooms on each part. Can your child make equal parts with more than one ingredient?

### Finding a Half

First of all, check that your child understands what halving a shape is and that the parts must be equal. Don't forget that dividing things for real is the ideal thing to do. Then use this step-by-step resource to look at dividing a set of objects in half. Have a jar of marbles or identical sweets to hand to practise dividing an even number of objects into halves.

## Step 2



## Step 3

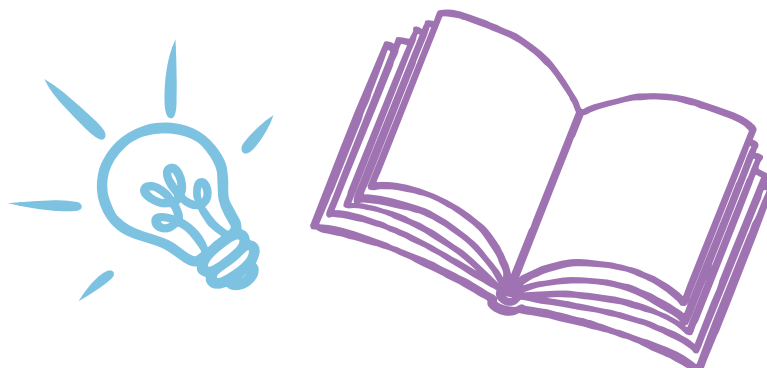
### Finding Halves and Quarters

Remind your child about a quarter meaning separating a set into four equal portions and half separating into two equal portions. Do this practically using eight counters, sweets or pennies. Then try with **these challenge cards**. The objects aren't drawn in straight lines to make sure your child counts all the objects and then works out the half or quarter.

### Finding a Half and a Quarter of Larger Numbers

This practical activity allows your child to build up to larger numbers finding halves. Start by printing the twenty butterflies and read out each fraction to your child as if it were a sentence. Teach your child to gather the right number of butterflies together, then separate them into two equal groups. To extend your child further, try working out a quarter of four, a quarter of eight, a quarter of twelve and a quarter of sixteen.

## Step 4



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