



# Afterschool Adventure!

## OPERATION: PIRATE PICNIC



Powered by a Ready To Learn Grant

Professional Development Extension

## More About Math

### Background for Leaders

This unit helps 4- 5-year-old children create the foundation for an early understanding of division. Children will learn how to “fair share” as they practice separating sets of objects into equal groups. They will also divide single objects (i.e., bananas, pizzas) into halves and quarters. On the last day, children will use their fair sharing skills to make and enjoy a fruit salad.

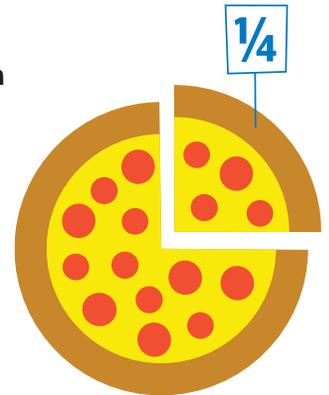
### Fair Sharing (division)

Children at this age are not expected to know formal division strategies. Nurturing their innate sense of “sharing fairly” with appropriate guidance and discussion can create the foundation for an early understanding of division. For example, when children share stickers or boxes of crayons encourage them to distribute items one at a time until everyone has the same amount. Older or more advanced children may hand out items in groups of two or three. The discussion should introduce children to useful vocabulary words like divide, distribute, fair share, and equal.

### Fractions (part of a whole)

Fair sharing a single object into equal parts lays the foundation for understanding fractions. When children encounter an item such as a banana or pizza that needs to be “fair shared,” they recognize the need to break the whole into smaller pieces—however, they may need prompts to understand that each piece should be the same size.

Halves and fourths are the easiest fractions for children to comprehend at this age. They will be more familiar with the words one-half and one-fourth than with the numerical representation. However they may recognize  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or even  $\frac{1}{3}$  from recipes and kitchen tools. To reinforce children’s understanding of what these words and representations mean, they should be encouraged to think of the shares as one of the four equal pieces, one of the two equal pieces, one of the three equal pieces, and so on.



### Counting

This unit offers children plenty of opportunities to practice their counting skills. Children should understand, when counting, that the last number tells the number of objects counted. They should gain practice in counting items in different sets, combining sets, and counting the total number of objects. (This is a precursor to learning to write number sentences with addition, subtraction and equals signs.) Children at this age may also compare the number of objects in two groups and identify each group as greater than, less than or equal



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