Fractions and Proportions

In Year 3 and 4 we mostly solve fraction problems with halves, quarters, thirds, fifths and tenths. It is vital that the children develop a sound understanding of these fractions in the context of:

* fractions of objects
* fractions of sets of objects
* fractions of numbers

We can help the children make links to other maths areas by pointing out the relationship to basic facts, multiplication and division, and place value (order of fractions and number relationships) then for those who are ready, decimals and percentages.

***E.G: I have 20 lollies and need to share half with my brother. How many will we have each?***

***Basic fact:*** *Half of 20 is …*

***Division/Multiplication:*** *20 ÷ 2 = 10 2 x 10 = 20*

***Place value:*** *If half of 20 is 10 then half of 200 is 100 etc.*

***Percentages:*** *Half of 20 is 10 so 50% of 20 is 10*

How you can help at home:

* Provide opportunities for children to share things out into various fractions and record the fraction using the appropriate symbols (½, ¼, ⅖ etc.)
* Ask fractional questions such as… *You have 3 bikkies and that is a quarter of the bikkies from the packet. How many bikkies make up the whole packet?*
* Provide paper to fold, chop and label with fraction portions
* Use Room 8s fraction links on the class web pages, (there are heaps!)
* Use the fraction sections of Sumdog and IXL
* Keep practicing basic facts, especially the doubles and halves to 20, How many 10s in numbers up to 100 and beyond, the 10x table *and other times tables if working in Stage 5*

Check out these great pages of ideas for fun playing with fractions at home!

<http://suzieshomeeducationideas.blogspot.co.nz/2013/11/10-ways-to-play-with-fractions.html>

<http://www.mathgoodies.com/articles/teach_fractions.html>

<http://www.math.com/parents/articles/mathhome.html>