Helping Your Child Find a Third in Year 2 Maths

Key points

- In Year 2, children learn to recognise and find a third, which means splitting something into three equal parts.
- A 'third' is one of three equal pieces, and it is important that every part is exactly the same size.
- Finding thirds can be trickier than halves or quarters because shapes do not always fold or split as neatly into three.
- Children are encouraged to use practical objects to help them see how a whole is shared into three equal groups.
- Because every school teaches slightly differently, you can ask your child's teacher about the specific methods they use in class.

Things to try at home

- Share a small handful of pasta shapes or buttons by dealing them out one by one into three different bowls.
- While preparing a snack, talk about how to split a piece of fruit or a sandwich into three equal portions.
- Use a piece of string or ribbon and try to fold or mark it into three equal lengths together.
- Play a game of 'fair share' with three teddy bears, giving each one the same number of treats.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's maths lead.
- The GOV.UK website for information on the National Curriculum in England.