

Half or Not Half? Sharing Equally in Year 1

Key points

- The Department for Education's Year 1 maths curriculum includes recognising, finding and naming a half of an object, shape or quantity.
- A half is one of two equal parts of a whole: for a paper shape, both parts must cover the same amount of paper.
- Two pieces are not halves if one contains more of the original shape than the other.
- The curriculum connects halves with sharing equally and exploring shapes, objects and groups of objects.
- Schools organise learning differently, so ask your child's teacher when they explore halves and how to adapt activities for your child.

Things to try at home

- Fold a paper square or rectangle so its two parts match when folded together, then open it and explore each half.
- Fold another sheet unevenly and wonder together, 'Are these halves, or is one part bigger?'
- Share four socks equally between two toy characters and notice that each character has half of the socks.
- Let your child point, move objects or talk in any language they use; help with folding or offer ready-folded paper if that makes joining in easier.
- Keep it to a few playful minutes, follow your child's interest and stop whenever they have had enough.

Find out more

- Department for Education: National curriculum in England — mathematics programmes of study, Year 1, 'Number – fractions': <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-mathematics-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-mathematics-programmes-of-study>
- Your child's teacher: ask about the school's approach to halves and suitable activities or adaptations, including for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or children learning English.