



Fractions

Sharing and cutting up food is always a great way to recap fractions and help children understand 'equal amounts'. Children have a natural affinity with being fair when sharing food items. So if you have something in your home that's easy to cut (buns, jaffa cake, oranges, pizzas) this may be a great way to introduce fractions!



Questions you could ask:

How do we know that we have cut it in half?

What are halves? (Teachers will often use the phrase 'two equal parts of a whole')

If one is bigger than the other is it still half? Why?

How do we cut it into quarters?

What are quarters? (Four equal parts of a whole)

What do you notice when I put two quarters back together? Is it the same as a half?

For the next activity outside you will need a collection of sticks. It doesn't matter how large or small they are. You can still do this activity with relatively small twigs! You could also use some writing materials to write the matching fractions too (check out our free outdoor writing guide for ideas!)



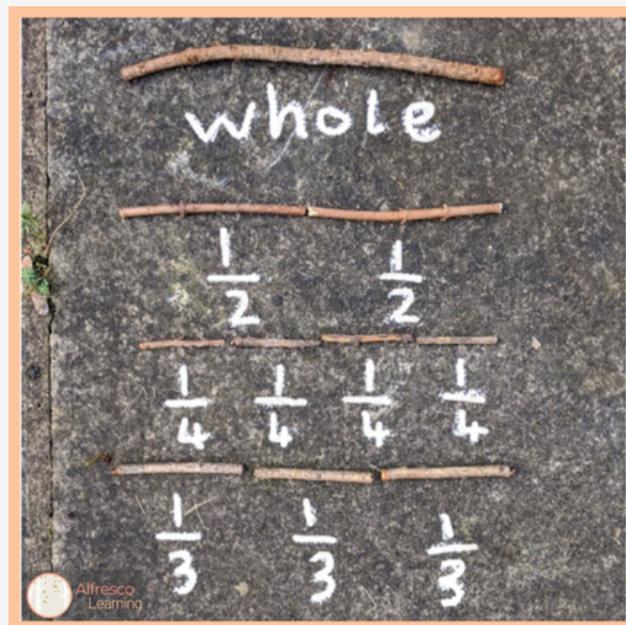


Fractions

Fraction wall

Choose one of your longer sticks to represent a 'whole'. Ask your children to find two sticks to represent halves of that whole. The two sticks should roughly join to be the same length as the whole stick and the same size as each other. Then challenge your children to find quarters to complete your fraction wall.

With each stick they select, talk through the fraction they are trying to show & whether the sticks are equal in length. If you can't find sticks to represent the fractions it may be that you need to snap some!





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Checking for accuracy

Once you have made your fraction wall use a ruler or tape measure to measure the length of the stick representing the 'whole'. Work out what half the measurement would equal. You could do this by using counters (you could use gravel, leaves, lego pieces whatever you have to hand) and split them into two equal groups to work out what this would be. Then measure the sticks representing halves and analyse whether they truly represent half! You can repeat this activity for quarters and any other fractions you've decided to investigate!

Working backwards

To ensure that your children have truly understood what halves and quarters are you can approach the fraction wall in a different way. Begin with a stick and explain that it represents a half. Ask your children to find the matching half, another stick that matches it to represent a whole plus the matching quarters!

