








To the Parent:

Your child has been exploring fractions, and today we practiced dividing rectangles and circles into halves and quarters. We learned that a quarter is half of a half, and that equal portions get smaller the more people they are divided among.

There's nothing like practical at-home experimentation to really cement these concepts, and I'd like to ask you to give your child every opportunity to practice fractions at home. Arrange snacks where he can divide a cookie, sandwich or glass of milk into halves for you and him, or ask him to share things with siblings by dividing them in halves or quarters.

Today we used playdough to make flat circles and rectangles (pizza and chocolate bars) to divide up, and your child would love to play this game with you at home. Cut out the cards below, and when you're ready to play, sit at the table with your child and a stack of cards. Each of you will want to draw a shape card-- candy bar or cake; rectangle or circle-- and then make your pieces of the playdough into that shape. Then draw a 'portion card', and divide your playdough into that number of equal portion. Applaud your child when she does it correctly, and ask her to check your work: "Is this a good rectangle? Are my quarters even?" Tally up one point for each success, and then put your cards randomly through the pile and start again! Raisin treats for every point gained might be a fun incentive.

 <p>halves</p>	
 <p>halves</p>	
 <p>quarters</p>	
 <p>quarters</p>	