

Halving and Sharing

Guidance

The children will halve quantities by sharing items into 2 equal groups. The children will probably already have some experience of sharing and will be quick to point out when groups are not shared fairly. This distinction between fair and unfair sharing can be used to emphasise the idea of half as being one of 2 equal parts.

Once children can confidently halve small quantities, they can explore sharing between 3 or 4 people. They will notice that sometimes there are items left over and may come up with their own suggestions for how to resolve this.

Other Resources

The Doorbell Rang - Pat Hutchins
Bean Thirteen - Matthew McElligott
Maths Story Time - Nrich

Prompts for Learning

Show the children a bowl of strawberries. Explain that you are going to share them into 2 equal groups so there will be half for you and half for your friend. Put a handful straight onto each plate without counting – make sure that one plate has much more strawberries than the other. Ask the children if that is fair. Prompt them to show you how to share the strawberries fairly.



With groups of children organise relay races. Start by putting the children into 2 obviously unequal teams so that it takes much longer for one team to finish than the other. Ask the children why the smaller team keeps winning. Is that fair? Ask the children to create 2 equal teams so the races are fair.



Provide opportunities for the children to share into equal groups. For example, at snack time they could share bowls of grapes fairly between 3 or 4 children. They could share out the cards or dominoes before playing a game. Prompt the children to notice that sometimes they can make equal groups and sometimes they have items left over.

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Snack

Ask the children to come for snack in pairs and provide quantities of food that they need to share onto their plates, e.g. A box of raisins, a bunch of grapes, a handful of crackers. Progress from halving to sharing equally between 3 or 4 children.



**Enhancements
to areas of
learning**

Various areas

Provide opportunities for the children to share quantities into groups fairly. For example sharing out the cards or dominoes at the start of a game, sharing out the bricks or beanbags, sharing the small world animals into 2 fields.



Sorting

Have some pictures ready to show the children. Some will show equal groups and some will show unequal groups. Ask the children to discuss and sort the pictures. The children might also like to make their own examples of equal and unequal groups to sort.



Teddy bear picnic



Provide 2 teddy bears, 2 plates and small even quantities of loose parts to represent different food items. Ask the children to share out the loose parts fairly so that each teddy gets the same. What will happen if another teddy joins the picnic?