Explore together

Fair Sharing and Making Groups

Tell the difference between finding how many in each group and finding how many groups.

Get ready: 12–24 matching counters or blocks, and a few cups or paper circles.

01 How many in each group?

Share 12 counters equally among 3 toy friends.
Give each friend one at a time. Keep going until all 12 are gone.
Each friend gets 4. Ask: How can you tell they have the same amount?

02 How many groups?

Use the same 12 counters. Put 4 in each bag.
Make one group of 4 at a time. Count how many groups you made.
You filled 3 bags. Ask: What did we know before we started?

Ask as you play

“Can you show me how you know?” Let your child point, build, draw or tell.

Try it yourself

Fair Sharing and Making Groups

Point, build, draw or tell. A grown-up can read each question.

1

Share 18 beads equally among 3 cups. How many beads go in each cup?

2

Pack 20 blocks, 5 in each box. How many boxes do you need?

3

Split 16 counters into 4 equal groups. Draw or use counters. How many are in each group?

4

Three groups have 3, 4 and 5 counters. Move one counter so all groups have the same amount.

5 • Try it if you want

You have 14 blocks you cannot break. Each box holds 4. How many boxes can you fill? How many blocks are left?

Parent answer key

Fair Sharing and Making Groups

Keep this page with the grown-up.

1 6 beads per cup. Check that each cup holds the same amount and 3 × 6 = 18.

2 4 boxes. Four groups of 5 blocks use all 20 blocks.

3 4 counters per group. Accept any picture or arrangement with four equal groups and 16 in all.

4 Move one from the group of 5 to the group of 3. Then all three groups have 4.

5 3 full boxes, 2 blocks left. A fourth box would hold the leftovers but would not be full.

What did you notice?

Tried alone, tried with help, or skipped? Pointing, building and explaining all count.

Next time

Use the same 20 blocks. Ask first about 5 equal groups, then about groups of 5. What changes about the question?