

# Parent-Child Connection

## Fractions Greater and Less than One-half


**Materials needed:** Paper strips (1" x 8.5") for folding.



### Background:

- One way to help your child understand fractions is to show examples of fractions with pictures and objects so they can "see" the idea.
- This activity reinforces your child's understanding of fractions equal to  $1/2$ , greater than  $1/2$ , and less than  $1/2$ .
- Students with number sense use  $1/2$  as a benchmark to make sense of the answers they calculate when adding or subtracting fractions.
- Here is an example:  $2/3 + 3/5$ . A student with number sense could judge that the answer must be greater than one since both fractions,  $2/3$  and  $3/5$ , are both greater than  $1/2$ . Since 2 halves make one, the answer to this problem must be greater than one.

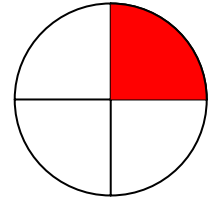
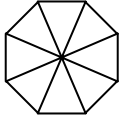
### Activity:

- Ask your child to fold paper strip in half and to shade in one of the two equal parts. One-half of the strip is shaded. 
- Have your child fold several examples of paper strips into 3 equal parts, 4 equal parts, 6 equal parts, 8 equal parts, and 12 equal parts. Don't do any shading just yet.
- Have your child use the paper strips, shading the needed amount to answer questions on the student page as shown here:

Is  $2/3$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?



## Student Page: Comparing Fractions to One-Half



1. Is  $1/4$  greater than, less than, or equal to  $1/2$ ?
2. Is  $3/6$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
3. Is  $5/6$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
4. Is  $3/4$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
5. Is  $4/8$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
6. Is  $5/8$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
7. Is  $1/3$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
8. Is  $2/8$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
9. Is  $7/8$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
10. Guess first:
  - Is  $4/12$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
  - Is  $8/12$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
  - Is  $1/12$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?
  - Is  $11/12$  greater than, less than or equal to  $1/2$ ?