1st grade
Math Moments for Families

Unit 3
Shapes and Fractions

Measure objects. Example:
I used a pencil to measure the height of the bookshelf and it was 6 pencils long. I used the same pencil to measure the height of the desk and the desk was 4 pencils long. Therefore, the bookshelf is taller than the desk.

Students can use a variety of manipulatives and real-world objects to build larger shapes. The manipulatives can include paper shapes, pattern blocks, color tiles, triangles cut from squares (isosceles right triangles), tangrams, canned food (right circular cylinders) and gift boxes (cubes or right rectangular prisms).

Cut circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares, describe the shares using the words halves, fourths, and quarters, and use the phrases half of, fourth of, and quarter of.

UNIT VOCABULARY

Attribute – a characteristic of an object, such as color, shape, size, etc.
Circle – a two-dimensional figure with no sides and no vertices; a continuous curve that is always the same distance from the center
Cone – a solid figure with a circular base and curved surface
Cube – a solid figure with six square faces
Cylinder – a solid figure with two circular bases and a curved surface
Fourths – the parts you get when you divide something into four equal parts
Fractions – a way to describe a part of a whole
Halves – the parts you get when you divide something into two equal parts
Partition – divide into pieces
Quadrilateral – a closed, flat (two-dimensional) figure with 4 straight sides
Quarters – one of four equal parts
Rectangular prism – a prism with six rectangular faces where the lateral edge is perpendicular to the plane of the base

Strategies to help your child with homework:

MEASURE! MEASURE! MEASURE! Find items at home that can be used to measure larger items and compare them. Have conversations with your child about which shapes are taller, shorter, longer, or higher.

Find SHAPES ALL AROUND the house. Name them, discuss their attributes and determine how they can be put together to make other shapes. Like two triangles can be put tohether to make a square.

Show the different shapes that you can make by joining a triangle with a square. The shape resembles a house.

Students need experiences with different sized circles and rectangles to recognize that when they cut into two equal pieces, each piece will equal one half of its original whole. When cut again it equals fourths and quarters.