



Dear Family,

Your child is learning math in an innovative program called *Math Expressions*. Your child will learn math and have fun by:

- working with different objects and making drawings of various math situations.
- working with other students and sharing problem-solving strategies with them.
- writing and solving problems and connecting math to their daily lives.

At the beginning of this unit, your child will be learning the basics of multiplication and division. One learning tool is the "count-by." Using fingers can help.



2s count-bys

- Multiplication is a fast way to count same-size groups: $2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 12$ is the same as 6 groups of 2, so we can say $6 \times 2 = 12$. To find 6×2 , we "count-by" 2 and raise 1 finger 6 times: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12. The last number we say is 12, so we know that $6 \times 2 = 12$.
- Division is the reverse of multiplication: $6 \times 2 = 12$ written as division is $12 \div 2 = 6$ or $12 \div 6 = 2$. To find $12 \div 2$, we "count-by" 2 up to 12 and keep track of how many fingers we raise. We raise 6 fingers to get to 12, so we know that $12 \div 2 = 6$.

It is vital that your child learn the basic multiplications and divisions. He or she must have a regular time and quiet place for practice every night.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher