

Cake Fractions

The purpose of this activity is to help your child to order fractions that have the same denominator. For example:

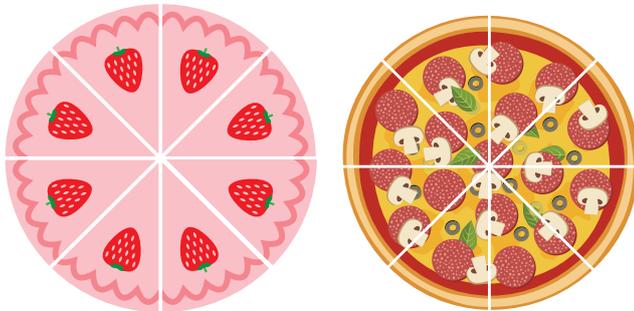
$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{2}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$
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What you need:

- A drawing of a pizza, or a cake, or use this activity when you are about to eat a pizza or a piece of cake.
- Small pieces of card or paper to write the fractions on.

What to do:

- Cut the cake or pizza into any number of equal sized pieces. For example, 8 equal sized pieces to represent eighths.



- Ask your child about the way the cake has been cut:

How many pieces have I cut this into? Count together.

How much of the cake is one piece? For example, if the cake is cut into 8 equal size pieces, each piece is one eighth of the cake.

If you ate three pieces how much of the cake would you have eaten? 3 eighths

If you ate seven pieces how much of the cake would you have eaten? 7 eighths

If you ate five pieces how much of the cake would you have eaten? 5 eighths

If you ate two pieces how much of the cake would you have eaten? 2 eighths

- Encourage your child to see that if the cake has been cut into 8 pieces and you are going to eat 2 of them, then you are going to eat 2 out of the 8 pieces the cake is cut into. Help them to link the “2 out of 8” with the numbers in the fraction $\frac{2}{8}$.

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2. If your child is having trouble, ask them to show you the fractions using pizza or cake.

Show me three eighths. Three pieces of cake

Now show me one 2 eighths. Two pieces of cake

Which is larger?

- Write each fraction as you talk about it on a piece of card. If your child is confident ask them to write the fraction.
- Lay out the cards with the fractions written on them randomly on the table. Ask the child to order the fraction from smallest to largest. For example: Ask your child about the way they have ordered the fractions. This may help them clarify their ideas.

Can you explain to me why you have ordered them like that?

- Repeat the activity at a later time with another pizza or cake (real or paper) using a different number of pieces.

Once your child can order the fractions confidently, try repeating this activity with out the pizza or cake to help them think about the size of the pieces. For example: Give the child a set of cards with the fractions written on them. Mix the cards up and ask the child to order them from smallest to largest.

$\frac{1}{11}$	$\frac{3}{11}$	$\frac{6}{11}$	$\frac{8}{11}$	$\frac{9}{11}$
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What to expect your child to do:

- Use the pieces of pizza or cake (real or paper) to help them think about the way the fractions should be ordered.
- Link the numbers in the fraction with the pieces of cake. For example, 2 out of the 8 pieces of cake, can be shown as $\frac{2}{8}$

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