

Introduction to Fractions — Fraction Circles

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child is introduced to fractions using Montessori fraction circles (fraction insets). Starting with a whole circle, they discover halves, thirds, and fourths by fitting the pieces together.

What You Need:

- Montessori fraction circles (whole, halves, thirds, fourths)
- Fraction labels (1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$)
- Work mat
- Paper and pencil for recording

Steps:

1. Present the whole fraction circle (red). 'This is ONE WHOLE circle.'
2. Present the halves (two equal pieces). 'When we cut a whole into TWO EQUAL pieces, each piece is called ONE HALF.' Write: $\frac{1}{2}$.
3. Two halves make one whole. Assemble and disassemble.
4. Present thirds: 'Three EQUAL pieces. Each is ONE THIRD.' Write: $\frac{1}{3}$.
5. Present fourths: 'Four equal pieces. Each is ONE FOURTH or ONE QUARTER.' Write: $\frac{1}{4}$.
6. Mix up the pieces. Child assembles each circle.
7. Compare: 'Which is bigger, one half or one fourth? Let us check!'

Work Space:

