Name _____

Use Equivalent Fractions to Add and Subtract Fractions

Topic 7 Standards

5.NF.A.1, 5.NF.A.2

See the front of the Student's Edition for complete standards.

Dear Family,

In this topic, your student is learning how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. He or she will learn how to replace given fractions with equivalent fractions with like denominators. To add $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, for example, first rename $\frac{1}{2}$ as $\frac{3}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ as $\frac{2}{6}$, and then add the numerators 3 and 2. The sum of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{5}{6}$. Your student will also learn how to estimate sums and differences of fractions.

You can help your student practice renaming fractions as equivalent fractions by playing a game together in which the players add fractions with unlike denominators.

Fraction Add-Up

Materials paper and pencil, index cards

Step 1 Make a set of fraction cards with one fraction shown on each card. Use fractions with numerators of 1 through 5 and denominators of 2 through 6.

Step 2 Player 1 turns over two cards and finds the sum of the two fractions shown. Then Player 2 turns over two cards and finds the sum of those two fractions. The player whose fractions have the greater sum wins.

Another Way to Play

- Both players turn over three cards and find the sum of their fractions.
- Each player records their sum.
- After 5 rounds, add each player's sums for each of the rounds.
- The player with the greater sum wins.

Observe Your Child

Focus on Mathematical Practice 2
Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Help your child become proficient with Mathematical Practice 2. Turn over two cards and find an estimate of the sum of the fractions. Ask your student to explain how he or she used number sense to estimate.

