



Dear Family,

In this unit and the next, your child will be practicing basic multiplications and divisions. *Math Expressions* incorporates studying, practicing, and testing of the basic multiplications and divisions in class. Your child is also expected to practice at home.

Study Plans Each day your child will fill out a study plan, indicating which basic multiplications and divisions he or she will study that evening. When your child has finished studying (practicing), his or her Homework Helper should sign the study plan.

4-1 _____ Name _____ Date _____

Homework

Study Plan

5s count bys
5s multiplications

_____ Homework Helper

Practice Charts Each time a new number is introduced, students' homework will include a practice chart. To practice, students can cover the products with a pencil or a strip of heavy paper. They will say the multiplications, sliding the pencil or paper down the column to see each product after saying it. Students can also start with the last problem in a column and slide up. It is important that your child studies count-bys and multiplications at least 5 minutes every night. Your child can also use these charts to practice division on the mixed up column by covering the first factor.

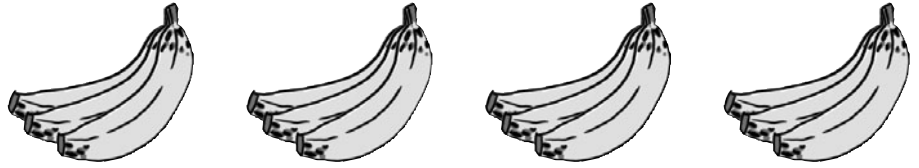
	In Order	Mixed Up
5s	$1 \times 5 = 5$	$9 \times 5 = 45$
	$2 \times 5 = 10$	$5 \times 5 = 25$
	$3 \times 5 = 15$	$2 \times 5 = 10$
	$4 \times 5 = 20$	$7 \times 5 = 35$
	$5 \times 5 = 25$	$4 \times 5 = 20$
	$6 \times 5 = 30$	$6 \times 5 = 30$
	$7 \times 5 = 35$	$10 \times 5 = 50$
	$8 \times 5 = 40$	$8 \times 5 = 40$
	$9 \times 5 = 45$	$1 \times 5 = 5$
	$10 \times 5 = 50$	$3 \times 5 = 15$

To help students understand the concept of multiplication, the *Math Expressions* program presents three ways to think about multiplication. They are described on the back of this letter.

continued ►



- **Repeated groups:** Multiplication can be used to find the total in repeated groups of the same size. In early lessons, students circle the group size in repeated-groups equations to help keep track of which factor is the group size and which is the number of groups.



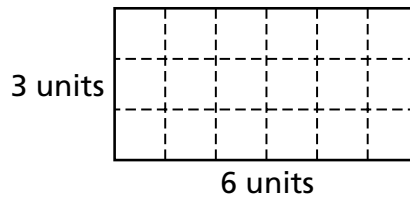
4 groups of bananas
 $4 \times 3 = 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12$

- **Arrays:** Multiplication can be used to find the total number of items in an *array*—an arrangement of objects into rows and columns.



2 rows of pennies = $2 \times 5 = 10$

- **Area:** Multiplication can be used to find the area of a rectangle.



Area: $3 \text{ units} \times 6 \text{ units} = 18 \text{ square units}$

Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher