Math in Focus
Singapore Math
### by Marshall Cavendish

Family Letters and Activities

Chapter 4   Ratio

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your student will learn about ratios. Some of the skills your student will practice are:

- *writing ratios to compare two quantities*
- *writing ratios as fractions*
- *using multiplication and division to find equivalent ratios*
- *solving real-world problems involving ratios*

Activity

Using a ratio to compare two numbers is a simple concept, yet it is central to many real-world situations. Your student can practice working with ratios with this activity.

- Collect 10 nickels and 10 dimes, or use pieces of paper marked "5" and "10." With your student, use the nickels and dimes to model a ratio. Give the ratio of nickels to dimes in simplest form. For example, if you select 6 nickels and 4 dimes, in simplest form the ratio is 3 : 2.
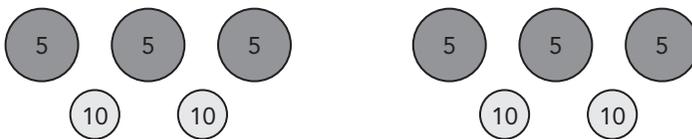
  You might find it helpful to separate the coins into two identical groups, each with 3 nickels and 2 dimes, to model the simplest form. Repeat the activity with different ratios.

- For more practice, select some dimes and nickels and give clues to your student, such as "The coins are in the ratio 1 : 2 and their total value is $.80." Can your student guess which coins you have? Then have your student select the coins and tell you their ratio and their total value, and see if you can guess.

Vocabulary to Practice

A **ratio** is a way to compare two quantities. The ratio "4 to 9" may be written $4 : 9$ or $\frac{4}{9}$. The order of the numbers is important, because the ratio 4 to 9 is not the same as 9 to 4.

You can write a ratio in **simplest form** by dividing both terms by their greatest common factor. The simplest form of 12 : 24 is 1 : 2.

You can write **equivalent ratios** by multiplying or dividing both terms by the same number. The ratios 3 : 6 and 12 : 24 are equivalent ratios because their simplest forms are the same.

Online Resources

For additional Parent Resources *my.hrw.com*