



Mathematics Family Letter, Unit: 4

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about data—the facts or information we collect about people and things in our world. Children will be posing questions, collecting and sorting information, and making representations of data as a way of sharing their findings with others.

Throughout this unit, students will be working toward these goals:

Benchmarks/ Goals	Example																																																		
<p>Use a Venn diagram to sort data by two attributes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Animals with Fur Common Pets</p>																																																		
<p>Identify categories for a set of categorical data and organize the data into chosen categories.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What is your favorite food?</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Breakfast Food</th> <th>Lunch Food</th> <th>Dinner Food</th> <th>Snack Food</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>cereal</td> <td>sandwich</td> <td>pizza</td> <td>ice cream</td> </tr> <tr> <td>pancake</td> <td></td> <td>chicken</td> <td>grapes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>spaghetti</td> <td>cookies</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Breakfast Food	Lunch Food	Dinner Food	Snack Food	cereal	sandwich	pizza	ice cream	pancake		chicken	grapes			spaghetti	cookies																																		
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<p>Order and represent a set of numerical data.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How many pets do you have?</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		X										X	X									X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X		X			0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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<p>Describe a numerical data set, including the highest and lowest values and the mode.</p>	<p>The most pets anyone has is 8.</p> <p>The fewest pets anyone has is 0.</p> <p>The most common number of pets people have is 1.</p>																																																		

Benchmarks/Goals	Example
Read and interpret a variety of representations of numerical and categorical data.	<p>"In the graph above, the four Xs above the 1 show me that 4 people in our class have 1 pet each."</p> <p>"There are no Xs above the 7, so no one in our class has 7 pets."</p>
Compare two sets of numerical data.	<p>"More people in the 3rd grade class have 2 pets than in our class. The most number of pets that people have in our class is 8 and the most number of pets in the 3rd grade class is 5."</p>

The activities below are related to our unit on data. Doing these activities together with an adult will help enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Animals Near My Home Ask your child to look in, around, and near your home for any kinds of animals. Record each type of animal on an index card or small piece of paper. See what possible categories these animals might fit in. You can also play Guess My Rule with Animals.

Finding Categories Help your child look for real-world situations in which items are sorted into categories, such as at the grocery store or library. When appropriate, have your child describe and help with sorting tasks at home. For example, dirty laundry is sorted into light wash and dark wash and then resorted into a variety of piles when it is clean.

Graph Hunt Look for and collect examples of graphs and representations of data. Check newspapers and magazines. Talk about what is being communicated by a graph or chart. Encourage your child to make graphs about things that are important to him or her.

Guess My Rule This game focuses on looking at attributes and making categories. Students will bring home the directions when they play the game for homework. The game can be played repeatedly, using different categories and rules.

Sincerely,

The Second Grade Team

