



Mathematics Family Letter, Unit 5

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about geometry and measurement called Measuring Areas of Polygons and Circles. Students will derive and use formulas for finding the area parallelograms, circle and polygons. They will also discover pi by understanding the relationship between the circumference and diameter of circles, and examine the concept of congruence.

In our math class, students spend time discussing problems in depth and are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain thinking that supports those solutions.

Additionally, you can use the following activity to enrich your child's mathematical learning experience:

Practicing Area Estimating or calculating the area of objects around the house is a good way to help your child use this concept in a variety of situations. There are many examples: the area of a rectangular table, the area of a room or rug, the area of the refrigerator door or sink. You can measure area in standard units of measure (such as inches or centimeters) or in nonstandard units (such as hand widths).

Work with your child on estimating area by measuring the area of one object (for example, the sink), and then using this information to estimate the area of a nearby object (for example, the refrigerator door).

Look for objects to measure that are other shapes besides rectangles. Can your child begin to estimate the area of circular objects, such as a round table? Find the area of a round table by walking or measuring around the outside of the table. Compare this area with those of rectangular objects such as tables and rugs.

Sincerely,