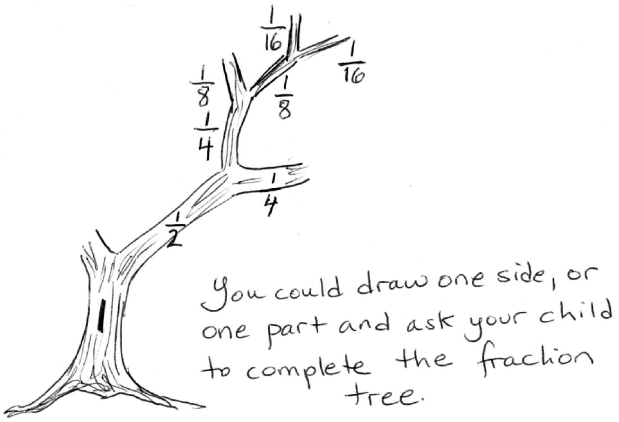
Math Block 11 Fractions 3 weeks

Week One

During the first week of this main lesson block, focus mainly on hands-on work with fractions. If you are using our *Fourth Grade Syllabus*, recall work you have done together with music notation and in quilting (and if you're not using our materials, do consider working with music and quilting on your own — introducing half and quarter notes in music and working with patterns based on fractions in quilting).

Work also with cutting pies, pizzas and cakes. Use terms like "one-eighth, one quarter" and so on and ask your child questions like, "If I cut this pizza into six pieces, what would one slice be?" *(one sixth)* Make sure she understands that 3/6 is the same as 1/2, not by reducing the written fractions but by showing her how it is with the pizza right in front of her.

At some point during this week, draw pizzas on the board and have her color in appropriate numbers of slices. Write the numbers on the board and make sure she understands that 8/8 represents the whole pizza, i.e. 8 of the 8 slices. Make sure that she understands 7/8 is 7 of the 8 slices, 6/8 is 6 of the 8 slices, and so on.

Remove the fraction strips and fraction circles blackline masters from this book and ask your child to color them in and to label them appropriately as wholes (i.e. 5/5).

Whilst doing all this, keep a sharp lookout for opportunities to point out that the larger the bottom number (or denominator) is, the smaller the fraction. This is a crucial step! If your child doesn't get this, then he's going to have an impossible time with fractions. Draw a fraction tree on the board to help reinforce this concept. Start the tree off and ask your child to take it as far as he can.