# LETTER HOME

Grouping and Sharing

Dear Family Member:

In this unit your child will explore multiplication and division concepts. The focus will be on understanding what makes a multiplication or division situation. Your child will then choose from a variety of strategies, such as repeated addition, drawing a picture, counting by groups (twos, fives, tens), or using manipulatives to solve the problems. Students use whatever strategy makes sense to them. Inventing and using a variety of strategies leads to better understanding and stronger concepts and skills. You can provide additional support at home.

- **Multiplication and Division.**
  Pose multiplication and division probems as part of your regular conversation. For example, "If I have five rows of stamps with five stamps in each row, how many stamps are there in all?" While playing a card game, ask questions like, "If four of us each have seven cards, how many cards do we have in all?" After asking a question, allow time for your child to figure it out and explain the answer to you.
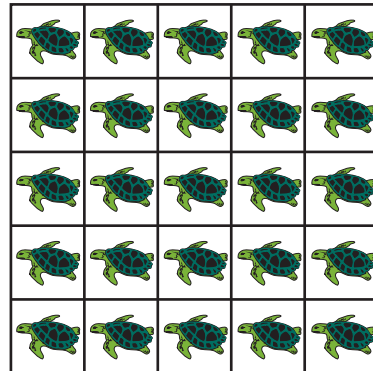
Five rows of 5 stamps with five stamps in each row: $5 \times 5 = 25$.

- **Read Books.** *Each Orange Had 8 Slices* by Paul Giganti, Jr. and *Sea Squares* by Joy N. Hulme are books about multiplication concepts. Your child may enjoy finding books about multiplication and division at the library.

- **Math Facts and Mental Math.** Students' fluency with the subtraction facts related to the addition facts in Group D will be assessed in this unit.

  Group D: $6 - 3$, $7 - 3$, $7 - 4$, $8 - 4$, $9 - 4$, $9 - 5$, $12 - 6$, $13 - 6$, $13 - 7$, $14 - 7$, $15 - 7$, $15 - 8$, $16 - 8$, $19 - 10$, $19 - 9$, $20 - 10$

  You can help your child review these facts using the flash cards the teacher sent home or by making a set of flash cards from index cards or scrap paper. Study the facts in small groups each night. As your child goes through the flash cards, put the cards in three stacks: Facts I Know Quickly, Facts I Can Figure Out, and Facts I Need to Learn.

  For Facts I Need to Learn, work on strategies for figuring them out.

  For Facts I Can Figure Out, use the flash cards to practice the facts for fluency.

  For Facts I Know Quickly, help your child use strategies to solve problems like these using mental math: $200 - 100$ (practices $20 - 10$), $900 - 400$ (practices $9 - 4$).

Thank you for your efforts to reinforce problem solving strategies at home.

Sincerely,