

# LETTER HOME

## Count and Add to Measure Area

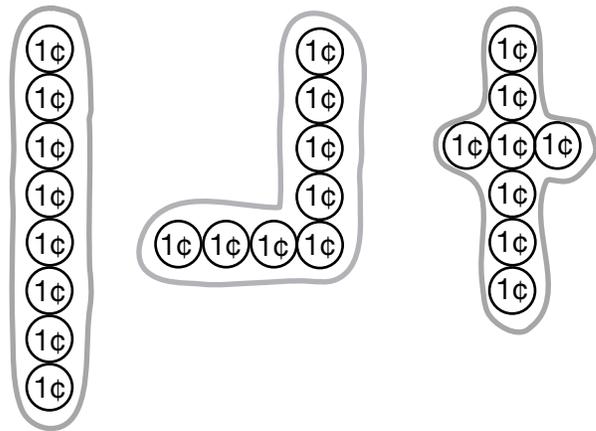
Dear Family Member:

Area measurements are often important in everyday life. Many adults learned about area as a series of formulas like “length  $\times$  width” and “ $\frac{1}{2}$  of the base  $\times$  height.” However, if one forgets what the formulas are for, how to use them, or when they are appropriate, measuring area becomes a mystery.

Beginning in first grade, students learn that area is the amount of space a shape covers. Students estimate the areas of shapes by covering the shapes with pennies. Later they use a standard unit, square inches, for area measure and also find the area of shapes by counting square units on a grid.

Students also explore another important idea about area: that different shapes can have the same area. As we explore measurement in the classroom, you can help at home by doing activities such as the following:

- **Storybook Math.** Invite your child to retell the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Rectangles*. Suggest your child use pennies or some other items to cover the objects in the stories to estimate their areas.



Pennies can be used to estimate the area of shapes.

### Math Facts and Mental Math

This unit continues the development of the addition facts with sums to ten and specifically focuses on the facts in Group D:  $3 + 3$ ,  $3 + 4$ ,  $4 + 4$ ,  $4 + 5$ .

You can help your child develop strategies for these facts by using the flash cards that are sent home or by making a set 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. Good strategies for the facts in Group D:

Doubles and Doubles plus one or minus one:  $4 + 4 = 8$  so  $3 + 4$  is one less or 7.

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 mental math strategies to add 10s related to the addition facts:  $33 + 33 = 66$ ,  $30 + 30 = 60$ ,  $13 + 4 = 17$ .

Thank you for your continued efforts to bring math into your child’s everyday world.

Sincerely,