

Junior Infants

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear parent/guardian,

The children are learning to **partition** sets. When teaching the children, we use the words *split*, *partition* and *divide*.

Active learning (learning by doing things) will help your child understand this concept. The following are some tips to help you teach this concept to your child:

- Place 2, 3, 4 or 5 pieces of Lego (or blocks, cutlery, cups or any toys your child plays with) on the table in front of your child. Now ask your child to divide/split/partition the set using a pencil. Now ask: 'How many blocks/Lego pieces are on each side of your pencil? How many are there altogether? When you divide/split the set, do you still have the same amount?'
- Now ask your child to come up with his/her own way to partition or split the set. With lots of practice, your child will discover all the ways to make 2, 3, 4 and 5. For example:

4 and 0 make 4

5 and 0 make 5

3 and 1 make 4

4 and 1 make 5

2 and 2 make 4

3 and 2 make 5

1 and 3 make 4

2 and 3 make 5

0 and 4 make 4

1 and 4 make 5

0 and 5 make 5

Your child will now discover that 5 and 0 is the same as 0 and 5, 4 and 1 is the same as 1 and 4, etc.

These activities are enjoyable and can be presented as a game – for example, use a box but call it a magic box. Display 5 toy cars and hide 3 under the box. Your child can now guess how many are under the box and how many can be seen, and then how many there are altogether.

Through play and hands-on experiences, you can support your child's learning and enable him/her to understand the concept of partitioning and to discover the components of the numbers 1 to 5 in an enjoyable and fun way.

Enjoy!

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Class teacher

