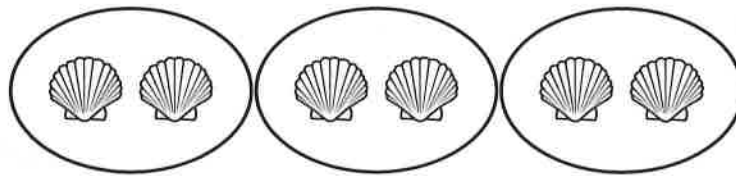# Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring the meaning of multiplication.

Multiplication involves working with equal groups of objects. For example:

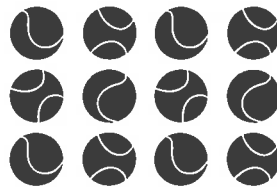3 groups of 2 shells is 6 shells in all.

Multiply: $3 \times 2 = 6$

The first **factor** tells how many groups.

The second **factor** tells how many in each group.

The **product** tells how many in all.

Your child is using arrays to show multiplication. An **array** is a set of objects arranged in equal rows and equal columns.

3 rows of 4 baseballs is 12 baseballs in all.
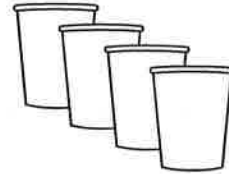
Multiply: $3 \times 4 = 12$

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about the meaning of multiplication by doing the following activity together.
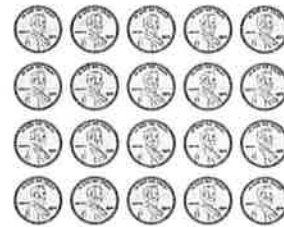
NEXT

Materials: 30 pennies or other small items and 4 to 6 small cups

- Ask your child to make 4 groups of 5 by putting pennies in cups.

- Using the pennies in the cups, complete this sentence:

  __(4)__ groups of __(5)__ pennies equals __(20)__ pennies in all.

- Next, ask your child to remove the pennies from the first cup and arrange them in a row to begin an array.

- Have your child create the second, third, and fourth rows of the array with the pennies from the other three cups, as shown.

- Using the array, ask your child to multiply to find the total.

__(4)__	×	__(5)__	=	__(20)__
how many rows		how many in each row		total

Repeat this activity for equal groups of other sizes, such as 5 groups of 3, 2 groups of 4, or 3 groups of 6.

As your child becomes more familiar with the idea of multiplication, point out examples of multiplication in real life; for example, 3 groups of 2 socks shows $3 \times 2 = 6$.