

SCHOOL to HOME Connections

Chapter 2 Estimation and Number Theory

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will learn about estimation, and factors and multiples.

Some of the skills your child will practice are:

- estimating, and choosing between an estimate and an exact answer
- finding common factors and common multiples
- identifying prime numbers and composite numbers

Activity

Finding common factors and common multiples of numbers is a math skill that has numerous applications in everyday life. Explain the following scenario to your child. Joe takes 4 minutes to run around a track. Ali takes 6 minutes to run around the same track. They start running from the start line at the same time.

- Help your child work out how many minutes later Joe and Ali meet again at the start line.
- Use a chart like this to help you. The chart shows the time in which each of them completes a certain number of laps.

	1 lap	2 laps	3 laps	4 laps	5 laps	6 laps
Joe	4 min	8 min		16 min	20 min	24 min
Ali	6 min			24 min	30 min	36 min

- Now, help your child see how this is linked to finding the least common multiple of 4 and 6. (12 minutes is 3 times 4 minutes and also 2 times 6 minutes.)

Vocabulary to Practice

2 is a **factor** of 12, as 12 can be divided exactly by 2.

The **greatest common factor** is the greatest number among all the common factors of two or more numbers.

A **multiple** of a number is the product of the number and any other whole number except zero. 12 is a multiple of 2.

The **least common multiple** is the least number among all the common multiples of two or more numbers.