



# Favorite Foods

## Targeted skill

Young children are expected to learn how to collect data and create charts to show the data. They are also learning to make assumptions from the data, such as “since more people in our family drink water than drink soda, our family needs to buy more water than soda.”

## Materials

- ◆ writing paper
  - ◆ pencil, pen, crayon, or felt-tip marker
  - ◆ *If desired, pictures from grocery ads or magazines.*
- What to do**

 Pizza	 Hamburger
 3	 2 = 5

This is a good activity to do at dinnertime. Ask your child to choose two foods (for example, hamburgers and pizza). They do not have to be ones that are served for that meal. They might be family favorites or your child's favorites. Help your child divide a piece of paper in half, writing “hamburgers” on one side and “pizza” on the other (or ask your child to draw a picture of each food). Have your child ask each person in the family to indicate which of the two foods he or she prefers and mark each person's vote.

Help your child associate the number of tally marks with the number of people he or she asked. Have him or her decide which number is larger. *Do the foods have the same amount of votes or does one food have more or less votes? Have the child count the tally marks and*

**Extending the activity** *write the numbers.*

- ✦ This way of collecting data can be repeated with any number of things, such as favorite foods, favorite colors, or favorite television programs. And you should not limit your child to surveying just the immediate family. Ask him or her to do this activity with extended family members and/or family friends.
- ✦ Find ways to encourage your child to apply this skill in ways to help the family. For example, at a family gathering, your child might survey the group to see how many people want water, tea, or soda to drink. Any time that your child can use the skill he or she is learning for a real-world reason, he or she will be more eager to accomplish the task.

## What your child is practicing

Probability and statistics may be a sophisticated form of mathematics, but it starts with simply collecting and recording data.