

Examples of Graphic Representation

When Are Our Birthdays?

Children participate in making a pictograph, placing a figure in the column next to the month in which they were born. Suggested questions:

What do you notice about our pictograph?

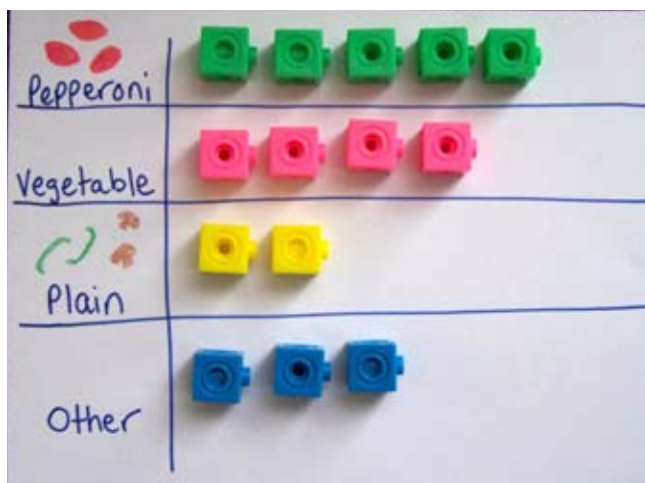
Which month has the most birthdays?

Which has the least? How do you know?

Is there a month when no one has a birthday?

Are there months with the same number of birthdays?

Let's count and write the numbers, telling us "How many?" for each month.



What's Our Favorite...?

Children discover the group's favorite and least favorite pizza topping (or anything else) by asking a question and making a block bar graph. Suggested questions:

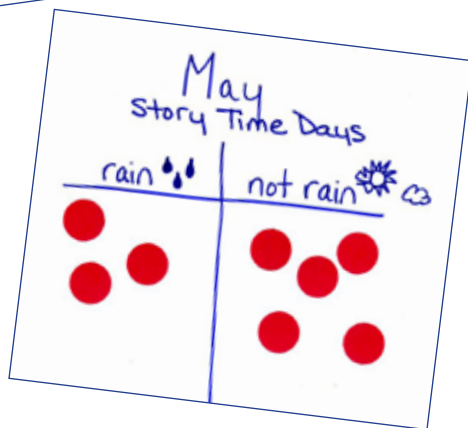
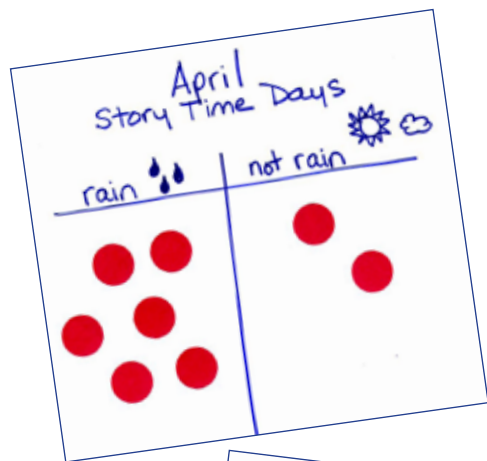
What do you notice about our graph?

What is our favorite pizza topping?

Which is the least favorite?

How do we know?

Let's count and write the numbers, telling us "How many?" for each topping.



How Many...?

Children collect data and see how many times it rained on their story time day. Ask:

What do you notice about our T-chart?

Did we have more days with rain or without rain? How do we know?



Where Were We Born?

Children make a “live” pie graph to see who was born in their home state, who was born in other states and who was born in other countries.

To make the graph: Sort the group. Everyone born in Our (your home state) State makes a set (group), everyone born in Other States makes a group and everyone born in Other Countries makes a group.

Everyone joins hands to make a circle with each of the sorted groups standing together (see illustration).

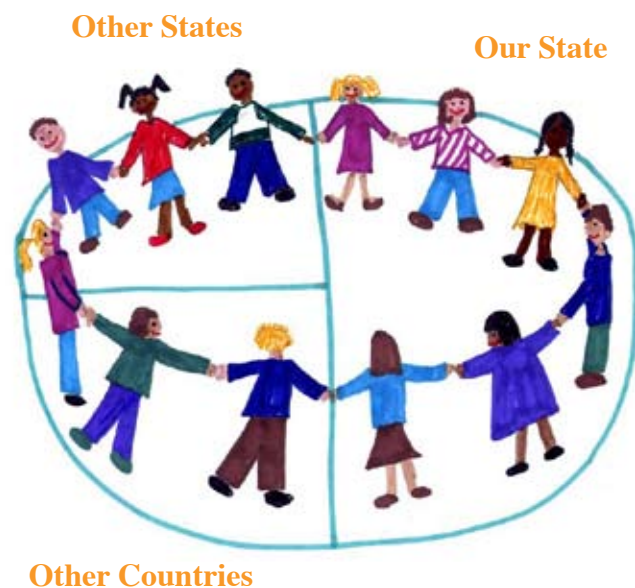
A piece of colored yarn is placed around the entire group so that each group is standing together on the edge of the circle.

Make the graph by placing yarn from the center of the circle to the edge of the circle, dividing the groups (see illustration above left). Ask:

What do you notice about our graph?

Where were most of us born? How do you know?

What else can we tell from looking at our graph?



Building Discovery Centers

Discovery Centers offer librarians an opportunity to engage children of all ages in hands-on exploration whenever they visit the library. Centers provide families with opportunities to talk, explore, and interact with each other. Children will experience centers at their different skill levels.

Attract children and parents to the Discovery Center by building it in an area with high visibility. Try different parts of the library. You might also create a portable center on a tray, wagon or cart to move from one place to another or to take on a visit to a Head Start or child-care center. Here are more quick tips:

- Feature one activity per Discovery Center.
- Post simple clear directions as needed.
- Provide hands-on materials including manipulatives, natural objects and everyday materials that encourage creativity, experimentation and learning.
- Exhibit related fiction and non-fiction books nearby.
- Expand the visuals by using pictures, labels, and questions or ideas to think about.
- Post a question or a challenge for children and adults to think and talk about.
- Post questions that are appropriate for children at different developmental levels, from simple to more complex.
- Offer different ways for children to record their responses such as drawing, retelling, graphing, recording on take-home sheets, and photographing results or processes.



Encourage parents to join their children for activities in your Discovery Center.



If you have a small library, build a portable Discovery Center that you can move easily.