

ACTIVITY IA11.5: One-half, One-quarter and One-eighth

Intended learning: To learn to express the equivalence between quarters, eighths and half of the same unit of length.

Materials: A paper streamer approximately 90 cm long.

Description: Write the fractions one-half, one-quarter and one-eighth on the board. Hold up a paper streamer and ask your students which one of the fractions of the length of the streamer would be easiest to make and why. Follow up with, *How do you know that you have one-half (or one-quarter or one-eighth) of the length?* Fold the paper streamer in half and then fold one-half in half. Unfold the streamer and display it to the class. Point to each part in turn and ask, *What fraction of the streamer is this part? How do you know? If I fold one-quarter in half, what will I have?* Fold the quarter in half and, as before, point to each part in turn and ask, *What fraction of the streamer is this part? How do you know? How else could I describe two-eighths of the streamer?* Ask your students to draw the streamer and to show on the drawing how halves, quarters and eighths of the length of the streamer are related to each other.