Unit fractions can help build fraction understanding!

- Unit fractions are NOT just “starter fractions.”
- Unit fractions clarify the relationship to one whole.
  
  One whole is the same amount as a collection of same-sized unit fractions.

- Unit fractions are foundational for understanding other fraction concepts.
  - Unit fractions are building blocks for other (non-unit) fractions.
  - Relationships between unit fractions are building blocks for understanding equivalence.

Strategic multiplication & division story problems can help children develop an understanding of unit fractions.

- Story problems (vs. “naked number” problems) focus on fraction amounts
- Multiplication/division problems (vs. addition/subtraction problems) focus on groups of unit-fraction amounts
- Problems with strategically selected numbers can highlight the special relationship between unit-fraction amounts and one whole
  - Structure problems so children can...
    - group unit-fraction amounts to wholes (multiplication) or
    - create unit-fraction amounts by partitioning wholes (division)
  - Start with familiar unit-fraction amounts (1/2, 1/3, 1/4) vs. unfamiliar fraction amounts (1/9, 1/12, ...)
  - Emphasize problems with multiple wholes vs. single wholes
A chef is making 14 pizzas. Each pizza takes $\frac{1}{6}$ of a pound of cheese. How much cheese will the chef need to make all of the pizzas?

Logan

Justine

Jasper
A chef is making 14 pizzas. Each pizza takes 1/6 of a pound of cheese. How much cheese will the chef need to make all of the pizzas?

Elsa: 2 2/6 pounds of cheese

Peyton:

11b = 6 pizzas
2(1b) = 12 pizzas
2b/6 = 14
2b = 1b

Destiny:

6 x 10 = 60
6 x 2 = 12

Peter:

Jamal: 1 lb of cheese

2 2/5 lbs of cheese needed