Little Nino's Pizzeria

(GPN #58/PBS #603)
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Program Description: A small boy enjoys helping his father make pizza at their family restaurant. Inspired by the story, LeVar is making pizza for a few friends, but as more and more people are invited to eat, he must figure out how to make enough for everyone.

Math Concepts:

- measurement
- size
- fractions
- surveying
- graphing
- counting
- addition

● **Counting and Addition.** Before watching the video, ask the students the question that is asked of the children on the program, "How many slices of pizza can you eat?" Do a class total according to a skill you wish to practice. For example: register a tally mark for each piece of pizza and count by 5's; record a number by each child's name and add, using a calculator; use counters, such as beans or unifix cubes, for each pizza slice and count by 1's, 5's, or 10's. (To create interest, each child can place her/his counters on one large pizza pan.) After viewing the program, discuss the responses of the children on the video.

● **Surveying and graphing.** Survey students' (and teachers') favorite pizza toppings and graph the results. For a larger survey, include other classrooms.

● **Cooking and measurement.** Prepare the recipe for pizza dough that LeVar gave at the end of the program or use a favorite recipe of your own. Divide the dough among the students so that each one has a lump of dough about the size of a large walnut. Have each student place her/his dough in a clear glass container (a large test tube works well) and mark the location of dough. Cover the glasses and place them in a warm spot so the dough can rise. Have students check the level of the dough at 1/2 hour and make a mark on the glass and again at 1 hour and make a mark. Measure the distance between marks. Have students compare containers to see if all the dough expanded the same amount. Use this dough for students to make individual pizzas, using prepared sauce and an assortment of toppings. (See next page for recipe.)

Page 1

LeVar's Pizza Dough Recipe

Put 3 cups of flour into a large bowl.
Add a pinch of salt.

Dissolve 1 package of yeast in 2 cups of warm water, and add to the flour. Stir with a spoon until it becomes dough. Knead the dough 2-3 minutes. Cover and set it aside to rise in a warm spot. After 1 hour, punch the dough down and flatten it. Start with the edges and then use your hands like the pros. Add sauce, shredded cheese, and toppings. Bake at 500° for 10 minutes.

● **Using fractions.** Give each student the pizza slice blackline. Have them color their slice according to favorite toppings and cut it out. Pose the problem: If each of us has one slice of pizza, how many pizzas will we need for our whole class? After the students have put slices together into pizzas (8 of these cutouts will make one 16-inch pizza), use the slices to introduce fractions. Add (we will invite others to join us) or delete (someone is absent or someone doesn't like pizza) slices to work with the concepts of "whole," "half," and "one-fourth." (Some students may want to continue to "one-eighth.") Have construction paper sections (in different colors) for "one-half" and "one-fourth" prepared so that students can lay their slices on them and better understand visually these fractional parts.

Do-At-Home Activity

Suggest pizza math activities to parents. For example, they might engage their children in solving problems such as the following:

-        If we order a large pizza that has 12 pieces, how many pieces will each person in our family get if we all have the same amount? If we order a medium pizza that has 10 pieces, how many will each of us get? If we order a small pizza that has 8 pieces, how many will each of us get? Problem solve situations that involve splitting pieces of pizza so that everyone has the same amount.

-        Begin calculating with a large pizza and a serving size of 2 slices per person, and start inviting family members (or friends) over to eat. Figure additional pizza in increments, such as one more person, a couple, a family of four, etc. Calculate number of pieces needed, and then determine whole pizzas needed. To make this activity more challenging, figure the cost.

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Page 2