Family Letters and Activities

Math in Focus Singapore Math by Marshall Cavendish

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your student will learn about statistics. Some of the skills your student will practice are:

- *finding the quartiles and the interquartile range of a data set, and solving problems involving them*

- *constructing and reading stem-and-leaf plots and box plots*

- *describing populations and samples, recognizing the purpose of random sampling, and finding a random sample*

- *using sample statistics to make inferences about a population*

Activity

Understanding statistical sampling is a skill that students will use in many different classes. You can help your student develop this skill with the following activity.

- Find a newspaper or magazine article that includes a statistical report or statistical data.

- Read the article together. With your student, try to answer as many questions related to the data as you can:
  What is the population? What is the sample? How was the sample selected? What is the sample size?

- If a graph is included in the article, discuss whether the range, the quartiles, or the median are displayed in the graph.

Vocabulary to Practice

The **range** of a data set is the difference between the least and the greatest numbers in the set.

The three **quartiles** of a data set divide it into fourths.

In a **stem and leaf plot**, the last digit of a number is called the **leaf**, and the other digits make up the **stem**.

A **box plot** displays the range of a data set and its three quartiles on a number line.

A **sample** is any subset of a **population**. The **sample size** is the number of members in the sample.

In a **random sample**, every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. A sample that is not random is called **biased**.

Online Resources

For additional Parent Resources *my.hrw.com*