CGI Fraction Problems
(From Susan Epson, TCM, Oct. 1995, p. 110-114)

All this in first grade . . .

Start with situations of 2 or 4 children, as children's earliest partitions are based on halving

4 Children want to share 10 cupcakes so that each child gets the same amount. Show how much one child can have.

4 children want to share 14 apples so that each child gets the same amount. Show how many apples one child can have.

4 children are sharing 22 cookies so that each child gets the same amount. Show how many cookies each child will get.

Move to situations of three sharers

3 children want to share 7 candy bars so that everyone gets the same amount. How much would each child get?

Move into equivalent fraction problems

6 children have ordered blueberry pancakes at a restaurant. The waiter brings 8 pancakes to their table. If the children share the pancakes evenly, how much can each child have?

Adding fractions with like denominators:

Tina and Tony painted pictures this afternoon. Tina used half a jar of blue paint for her picture. Tony used three-fourths of a jar of blue paint for his picture. How much paint did Tina and Tony use altogether for their paintings?

Subtraction-of-fraction problems:

Robert had 6 giant peanut-butter cookies. He ate one-fourth of a cookie and decided he didn't want to eat any more. How many cookies did Robert have left?

Beyond first grade:

Develop concepts, study in greater depth - here equivalences, in third grade:

Matthew has 13 licorice sticks. He wants to share them with 8 people. How much would each person get?

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4 children are sharing 15 apples so that each child gets the same amount. Show how many apples each child will get.

Moving to higher number of sharers:
Twenty friends were sharing eight cakes. How much cake does each person get?

Comparisons of equal-sharing situations:
In art class, at one table four students were sharing three containers of clay so that everyone got the same amount. At another table eight students were sharing six containers of clay. At which table does a child get more clay?

Addition and subtraction:
Anna wants one half-yard of fabric to make a pillow. Her brother Jason wants one-sixth yard of the same fabric to make a lunch sack. How much fabric should their father buy?

More difficult addition-subtraction problems:
Megan needed five-sixths yard of fabric to make an apron for her mom. Her sister needed one half yard of the same fabric to make pot holders to match the apron. How much fabric should they buy?

James needed one fourth yard of brown fuzzy fabric to finish the hands on his toy monkey. Adam need one-ninth yard of the same brown fuzzy fabric to finish the tail on his toy monkey. How much brown fuzzy fabric should their teacher buy for them?

Leanna wanted to buy one-third yard of red ribbon to decorate a get well card. Sean wanted one-fourth yard of the same red ribbon to decorate his card. How much red ribbon should their teacher bring to school for them?