

# Fruit Salad

## *An introduction to fractions*

Fractions are often frighteningly difficult to master. This delightful game provides an easy introduction which is anything but frightening.

### *Contents:*

Four fruit salad plates, a fraction die and 15 pieces of fruit: 2 pear halves, 3 apple thirds, 4 orange quarters and 6 melon sixths. One side of each card is marked with its corresponding fraction.

### *For Beginners:*

Beginners should make the fruit without using the die. They should be made familiar with the meaning of half, third, quarter and sixth (using the corresponding cards). They should be shown how each expression is represented on the die ( $\frac{1}{2} = 1$  of 2 equal pieces that make a whole, etc.).

### *Preparation:*

Each player receives a collecting plate. The fractions of fruit are placed in the middle, the same side up. Beginners should play with the fraction side up.

## **GREEDY GUESTS**

Each player throws the die in turn and takes a piece of fruit corresponding to the fraction thrown. He/she collects the piece on his/her plate. If there is no piece left corresponding to the fraction on the die, the player receives nothing and passes the die. The winner is the player with the most pieces of fruit, when there are no cards left in the middle.

## **A BALANCED DIET**

This game is played as above, but the winner is the first player to collect at least one piece of each fruit. If there is no winner when all the fruit has been collected, players continue to throw the die and take a corresponding piece from another player's plate, until one player wins.

## **WHOLE FRUIT**

The game is played as above. The winner is the first to collect one, two or three whole fruits, as agreed. When there are no more pieces left in the middle, players may take fruit from an opponent, as in A BALANCED DIET, but only from unfinished fruit.

These games teach the players to understand the meaning of fractions. Specifically, they will learn to recognise a whole, halves, quarters and sixths, both in concrete and abstract form. The concept that one half equals two quarters or three sixths may be grafted on, and players will also learn that half of one fruit does not correspond to half of another fruit.

*After Fruit Salad, children are ready for Vegetable Soup.*