



## CREATE AN ORGANIZED LIST

When students are working on math, it is important that they be able to break a problem into bite-size pieces so they can make sense of it. One strategy that helps your child's brain break down and process information is to *create an organized list*.

There are many different types of *lists* that students can use to organize their information. Therefore, it is important that students have the opportunity to learn about and practice using various types when doing math.

Here are some of the most common kinds of lists:

- bar graph
  - A graph that uses rectangular bars to show how great the value is
- circle graph (sometimes called a pie chart)
  - A chart that uses “pie slices” to show relative sizes of data. The chart is divided into sectors, and each sector shows the relative size of each value.
- line plot
  - A graph with points connected by lines to show how something changes in value
    - as time goes by or
    - as something else changes
- in-out table
  - A table showing how the relationship between one variable is dependent on the other
- tally marks
  - A way of keeping count by drawing marks. Every fifth mark is drawn across the previous four marks, so you can easily see groups of five.
- tape diagram
  - A rectangular visual model resembling a piece of tape with divisions used to help with mathematical calculations. Also known as a divided bar model, fraction strip, length model, or strip diagram.

### How You Can Help Your Child with This Strategy at Home

1. Show your child how you organize the math you do into various *lists* to help you make sense of it. For example, you might show them how you organize your budget, or how a store organizes the items you purchase on a receipt.
2. When you see examples of how math has been organized into a type of list, point it out to your child and have a discussion about why it is helpful. Some examples are receipts, utility bills, various graphs in newspapers or magazines, and poll results.
3. Remind your child that creating a list is just one way to help them organize and keep track of their work. Encourage them to explain which kind of list they like best and how they organize their work.