



Think about the master chefs you see on television—how do they acquire their knowledge and skills? No one starts out chopping onions at high speed, inventing their own dishes, or running a restaurant! Chefs develop their cooking expertise over time, starting with basic skills and easy recipes. Gradually, they practice these skills, learn important food science concepts, and gain experience by cooking in many different restaurants.

In a similar way, *Everyday Mathematics* is based on the idea that children build understanding and develop skills as a result of many meaningful and connected learning experiences. Mastery of mathematics concepts and skills comes with repeated exposure and practice, not after just one lesson. This enables children to make new connections and build on the mathematical content they already know while gradually learning more difficult and challenging content. Think of this process as climbing a spiral staircase—with each twist of the stairs, the previous steps can be seen, but you are farther and higher.

To help children develop mastery, you may notice the mathematical content in this program is taught in a repeated fashion, first with informal exposure and then through more formal and directed instruction. For example, children will have many different hands-on experiences with subtraction—they will take items away from a set, count backwards on a number line, and make up number stories—before they learn pencil-and-paper procedures for subtraction.

The design of *Everyday Mathematics* allows your child to gain a more genuine understanding of mathematical concepts, a much more solid mathematical foundation, and exposure to the entire scope of mathematics each year.

How can you help? Because homework is one way children revisit concepts, you can support your child by helping with Home Links and playing math games at home when they are assigned.

