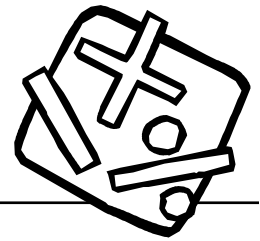


# In the Middle

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Use a problem solving approach to find the middle.

## What you need

Dice  
Chair cards

## What to do

1. Mary Middles always wants to be able to sit exactly in the middle at the movies.
2. Roll the dice to find out many chairs are in the row.
3. Arrange the seats to make a row.
4. Check to see if there is a middle seat for Mary?

## What to ask

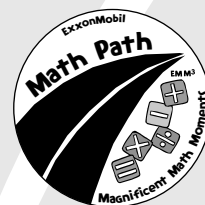
- How can you find out if the rows have a seat exactly in the middle?
- Which rows will work?
- What do you notice about the number of seats in the row that will work?
- What do you notice about the number of seats that will not work?
- How many chairs are on either side of Mary?
- When is it good to be in the middle? When would you rather not be in the middle?

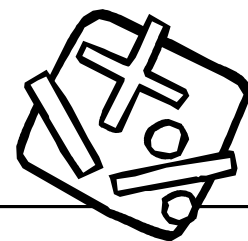


## Did you know?

Children learn about being in the middle at an early age. The characteristics of a quantity help children decide how it can be divided and how that can help them problem solve. Experiences finding the middle and looking for patterns support children's understanding of dividing quantities and problem solving.

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## What's next?

- Line some people or toys up in a row. Talk about what it means to be in the middle.
- Look for things that have middles. Sometimes the middle of an area is called a center.

## To learn more

### ***Even Steven and Odd Todd***

*by Kathryn Cristaldi*

The arrival of Cousin Odd Todd greatly upsets Even Steven who likes everything to come in even numbers, his pets, his library books and even his pancakes.

### ***The One in the Middle is a Green Kangaroo!***

*by Judy Blume*

Second grader Freddy Dissel has that left-out kind of feeling. Life can be lonely when you're the middle kid in the family who feels like "the peanut butter part of a sandwich", squeezed between an older brother and little sister. But now for the first time it's Freddy's chance to show everyone how special he is and, most of all, prove it to himself!

## How it helps with school

### **Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines**

Number and Operations

### **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Standards**

Number, Operations and Quantitative Reasoning: K.1, K.2A

Patterns, Relationships and Algebraic Thinking: 1. 5A; 2.5A

Geometry and Spatial Reasoning: K.7B

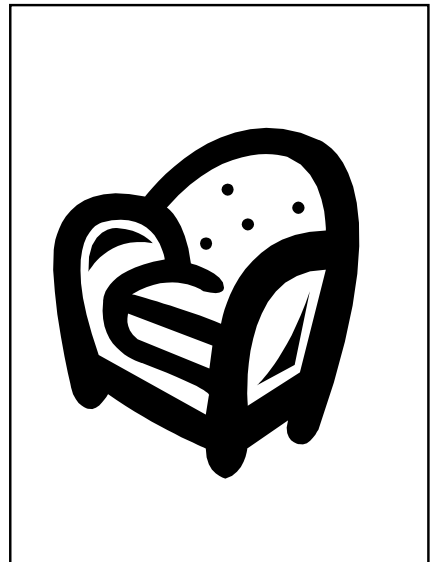
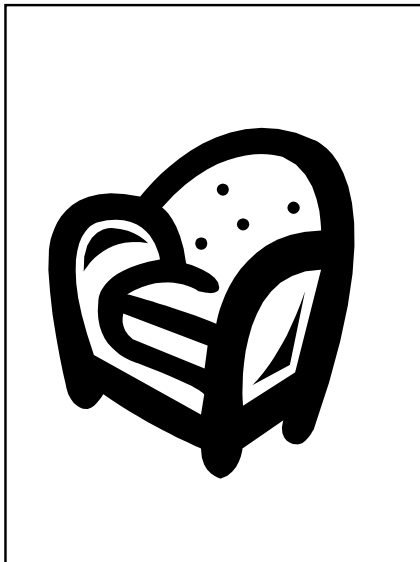
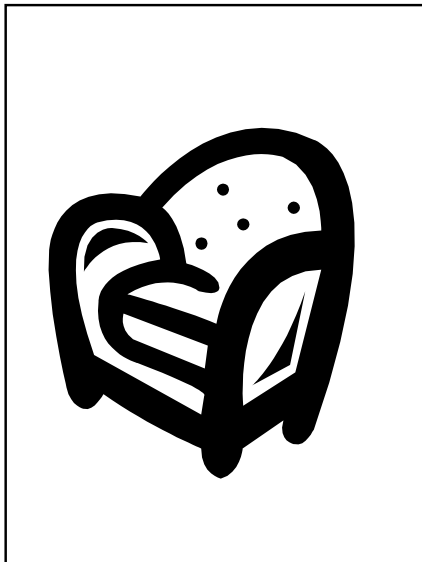
Underlying Processes and Mathematical Tools: K.13C-D, K.15; 1.11C-D, 1.13;

2.12C-D, 2.14

### **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards**

Number and Operations, Algebra, Problem Solving

# In the Middle



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