Introducing Division

Mix-Freeze-Group

1. Write the total number of students on the board. Let's use a class size of 25 for our example.

2. Draw the division "house" around the number. This becomes the divisor. Discuss the fact that division means breaking a large number down into smaller groups.

3. Call out "Mix!" and "Freeze!"

4. Announce the group size (like 4) and have students gather in groups of that size. Remind the extras to come to the "Lost and Found."

5. Say "We have divided into groups of 4." How many whole groups do we have?"

6. Have each group count off as you point to them. With 25 students in groups of 4, you will end up with 6 groups (and 1 person left over).

7. Write the number of groups as the quotient.

8. Check to see how many students are in the Lost and Found. Ask "Where shall we record these students?" Hopefully, the children will suggest recording them as the remainder.

9. Repeat the activity using the same dividend (class size) and different divisors (group sizes).