



Equality Versus Equity

People sometimes use the words **equality** and **equity** when they talk about fairness. These words sound similar. But equality and equity are two different ideas.

Equality is giving everyone the same things. **Equity** is giving each person what they need based on their situation.

Let's try thinking about it this way. There are three siblings. One is two years old. The second is four years old. The third is seven years old. They want to sit at the same table. If their chairs are all the same height, that would be **equality**. But the siblings are different heights. They wouldn't all be comfortable sitting on the same type of chair.

Instead, you could give the tallest chair to the youngest sibling. Then you could give the second tallest chair to the four-year-old. The seven-year-old could get the shortest chair. Now everyone can sit and reach the table easily. They just needed different help to get to the same place. This is an example of **equity**.

Can you think of your own examples of equality and equity?