

FAMILY MATH

Compare Sets Within 10

Dear Family,

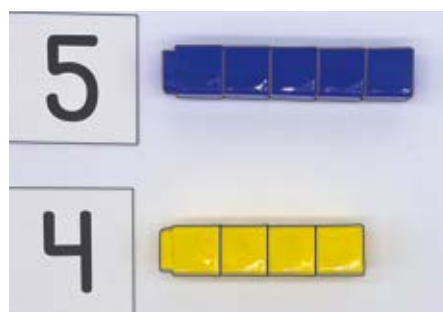
Your child is learning to explore strategies to help them compare the number of objects in different groups. They use the words *more*, *fewer*, and *less* to describe the comparisons. Children label groups with numerals to help build a foundation with comparing numbers directly, without groups of objects, in upcoming lessons.

Words We Are Learning

More

Fewer

Less



4 is **less** than 5.

The 4-stick has **fewer** cubes than the 5-stick.

At-Home Activities

Activity Idea 1 Sorting Snacks

During snack time, ask your child to compare their items. For example, “Do you think you have more pretzels or peanuts? How could you check?” Children may choose to sort their snack into groups or use a different comparison strategy, such as counting.

You can also try comparing by color. You might ask, “Do you think there are more blue fruit snacks or orange fruit snacks?”

Activity Idea 2 Comparing Groups

Give your child two containers with up to 10 household items each, such as beans, pennies, or paper clips. Ask your child, “Which group has more?” Invite them to share their thinking and work together to check their guess. Let your child decide how they can check to see which group has more items and which group has fewer items.

CHALLENGE: Ask your child to tell you about the groups by using the words *more* and *fewer*.

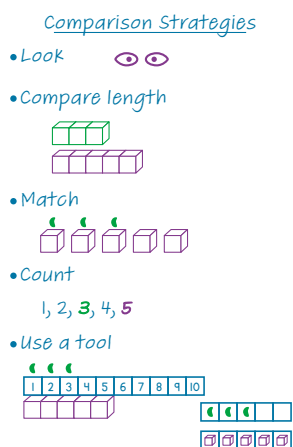
You might hear:

“There are *more* _____ than _____.”

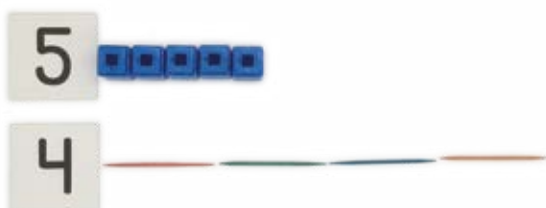
“There are *fewer* _____.”

Comparison Strategies

Studies have shown that infants are sensitive to number, and in some cases, babies can discriminate between groups with more and fewer objects. With age and experience, young children develop more sophisticated strategies for comparing the number of objects in different groups. Kindergarten students build a toolbox of comparison strategies.



Children realize that all comparison strategies aren't equally effective. For example, the picture below shows why comparing length is not always a good strategy. As they consider when and why each of these strategies is effective, children come to realize that matching one-to-one and counting strategies are reliable ways to compare sets.



5 is greater than 4, so there are more blue cubes.

With matching one-to-one, children can always tell which group has more by seeing which group has extras. Counting is reliable because it allows children to make comparisons even when sets cannot be touched and organized, such as when they appear in pictures.

