

Using numbers to describe and compare collections is important learning for children. Encourage children to describe and compare the number of objects, actions or sounds that they experience. Help children to notice which collections have more or fewer objects, actions or sounds.

## Watch and Listen While Children Play- Learn About Their Thinking

Watch children:

- notice and talk about the **number of objects** they have or see.
- compare and talk about **who has more**.
- notice and talk **how often** they do things.

## Everyday

Look for and compare collections that have more or fewer when you are:

- Preparing a meal.
- Dressing for the day or dressing for bed.
- Going shopping.
- Reading a story.
- Driving in the car.
- Walking down the street,
- Catching a train.
- Moving between rooms in the house.
- Visiting family and friends.
- Playing in the park.

## Comparing

When children notice how many things they have or see, encourage them to compare this number with other collections.

Can we **find**:

- a flower with **more than** four petals?
- a carton with **fewer than** 12 eggs?
- **five of something** in the room?
- **more than** two people sitting at a table?
- a shape with **more than** 3 sides?
- a truck with **more than** 4 wheels?

How can we **check**?

## Talking and Describing

When you talk with your children and **describe** or **compare the number** of objects or actions you see, then they will learn and use this mathematical language also.



## House Hunt

Find...

- the collection in your house that has the most items.
- the shelf with the fewest items
- a book with more than 10 pages.
- a box with more than 6 pens or pencils.
- the most common colour in kitchen.
- three red things in the kitchen.

## Play Eye Spy

Eye spy with my little eye...

- more than four of something!
- fewer than three of something!
- something with one more than five!
- more than ten of something!
- more than 100 of something!
- something with two more than the other!