

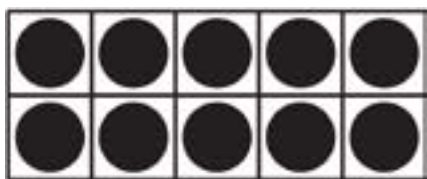
Math Moments that Matter

Kindergarten: Comparing Quantities

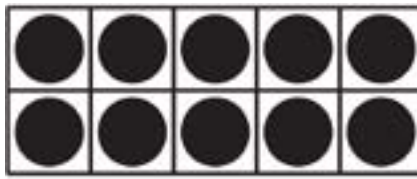
Kindergarten is all about building strong number sense. One of the key ideas your student will engage with is comparing quantities by identifying more, less, or equal to using objects and numbers. This lays the foundation for your student to work on addition, subtraction, and place value in 1st grade.

Students use tools like counters and ten-frames to compare two groups and decide which has more, less, or the same amount. By counting and matching objects, they learn to explain how they know—answering questions like, “Which group has more?” or “How many more are there?” These hands-on comparisons help students develop a deep understanding of number relationships and prepare them for addition and subtraction.

EXAMPLE: Ten-frame. $10+3=13$



EXAMPLE: Ten-frame. $10+4=14$



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Problem Solving in Math

When kindergarteners compare groups, they are learning how to solve problems by trying things out, using tools, and learning from mistakes. These habits help them understand math – not just get the correct answer. Students use these important math habits:

- Making sense of problems using objects or pictures.
- Trying different ways to figure out the problem.
- Explaining their thinking and checking their work.
- Trying again if something doesn't work.

These skills help students become confident and flexible problem solvers!

What You Might See in the Classroom:

Students using tools like number cards, cubes, dot cards, drawings, or counters to compare.

Teachers asking:

- “Which number is greater?”
- “How do you know those numbers are equal?”
- “How do you know that group has more?”
- “Can you show it another way?”

Students using ten-frames or number parts to represent problems.

Students explaining their thinking and testing their ideas in different ways (objects, fingers, drawings, words).

Students working together to check and explain their thinking.

What You Can Do at Home:

Ask: “Who has more snacks?”
or “Who has fewer blocks?”

Ask: “Which is more, 7 or 9?”
How do you know?

Compare toy collections, steps or snacks between two people.

Play a quick dice game, “Who rolled more dots?”

Play a game of “greater, less, or equal” with playing cards.

Encourage your student to show how they know: “How did you figure that out?”

Encourage your student to explain how they know: “Tell me why 6 is less than 8.”

Make it a Math Moment!

Math stories are everywhere — When kids compare quantities and explain why, they’re building strong thinking skills and confidence for bigger math later.