

Math Moments that Matter

KINDERGARTEN

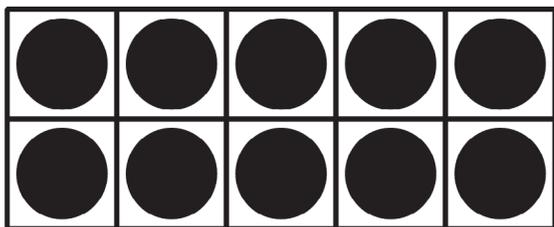


Comparing Quantities

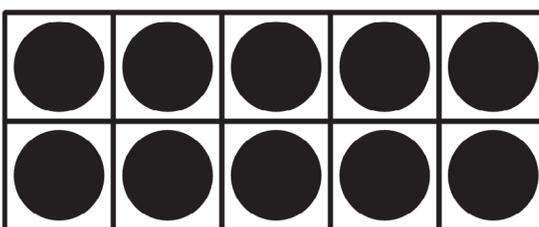
Kindergarten is all about building strong number sense. One key idea is comparing quantities to identify more, fewer, or equal (means the same amount, even if it looks different), using objects and numbers. This early work sets the stage for addition, subtraction, and place value in 1st grade.

Students use ten-frames and counters to compare groups and see which has more, fewer, or the same amount. In the first image, students fill a ten-frame and add counters underneath to show 13. In the second image, they built another ten-frame to compare the two groups. These hands-on moments help students notice patterns—like “one more” or “one less”—and make comparing numbers feel clear and doable.

EXAMPLE: Ten-frame showing 13 counters



EXAMPLE: Ten-frame showing 14 counters



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Problem Solving in Math

When kindergarteners compare groups, they learn how to solve problems by trying things out, using tools, and learning from mistakes. They learn to:

- Make sense of problems using objects or pictures
- Try different ways to figure out the answer
- Explain their thinking and check their work
- Try again if something doesn't work

These habits 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?”
- “Which group has more? How do you know?”

Students explaining their thinking using models, words, or drawings.

Students working together to check and share their ideas.

What You Can Do at Home

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

Compare toy collections, steps, or snacks between family members.

Play quick dice games: “Who rolled more dots?”

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

Ask: “How did you know that 6 is less than 8?”

Make it a Math Moment!

Everyday moments are math moments. When students compare snacks, toys, or steps and explain which has more or fewer, they build strong number sense and confidence in their thinking.

Tap or Scan for Interactive Tools and More Resources!

