More, Fewer or the Same? Comparing Groups in Reception

Key points

- Children in Reception (the first year of primary school) learn to compare groups of objects before they start counting them one by one.
- They use 'one-to-one correspondence', which means pairing one object from one group with one object from another to see if they match.
- By lining objects up side-by-side, children can visually spot if one group has 'more' or 'fewer' than the other.
- If every object has a partner and none are left over, the groups are 'the same'.
- These hands-on activities build a strong foundation for understanding numbers and maths as they grow.

Things to try at home

- While setting the table, ask your child to give one fork to each person to see if you have enough or if some are left over.
- Line up two different groups of toys, like cars and dinosaurs, to see which row is longer.
- During snack time, put a few pieces of fruit in two different bowls and ask which bowl has fewer pieces.
- Use buttons or pebbles to make pairs, seeing if every piece has a friend or if one group has more.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework
- Your school's parent handbook or newsletter