

# Addition and Subtraction: *Key Skill 11*

## Compare 2 groups to work out 'how many more'



First, children need to be able to conserve number to learn this skill (see Key Skill 6). Children will sometimes think that the bigger the space the items take up, the more there are. Once they can conserve number they can work out accurately, how many more are in an uneven group.

Look for one-to-one counting where they are matching 1 object to 1 number. Children can sometimes get stuck if they forget to move objects when working out their answer. Look for objects being counted once and given a number as your child adds. Check that they know the last number they count is the answer.



Check your child can conserve number before learning this skill (see Key Skill 6).

Compare the fruit in the fruit bowl at home. How many more apples than oranges?

Play a game of snap, fish or memory. The winner won by how many more cards/pairs?

How many more boys than girls are there in your family? (or vice versa).



**WEB LINKS go to:**

[Video: How many more word problems](#)

[Game: Number games](#)

[Game: How many more to 10](#)

# Addition and Subtraction: Key Skill 12

## Show addition and subtraction using drawings, words and numbers



**Addition** is the process of combining collections of objects into a larger collection. It is the opposite of subtraction. Add, addition, plus and sum mean the same thing.

**Subtraction** is taking 1 number or amount away from another. It is the opposite of addition. Decrease, minus, subtract, subtraction and take away mean the same thing.



Children begin to learn about addition and subtraction by moving objects and using pictures. Children can sometimes get stuck if they forget to move objects when working out their answer. Look for every object being counted once and given a number as your child adds or subtracts. Check that they know the last number they count is the answer.

Find everyday events to give your child experiences using addition and subtraction.



Play a game with dominoes and try and find all the dominoes where all the dots add up to 10. Then ask them to find 1 with more or less than 10.

Create an 'addition machine' from recycled materials that has 2 paths (holed out cups or rolled up cardboard) that join to a box underneath ([see Notes: Addition machine](#)). Drop each group of objects through the different paths to combine them in the box below. Count up the amount in the box to find your answer! Use the addition machine to create questions and write the questions and answers using numbers.

Play a game of Subtraction Dice! Start at 20 and roll the dice. Minus your answer from 20. The first person to 0 wins! Write down each subtraction question as you play.

Play a game of skittles or go ten pin bowling.



**WEB LINKS go to:**

[Notes: Addition machine](#)

[Video: Beginning to learn addition](#)

[Video: Beginning to learn subtraction](#)

[Video: Math strategy - draw a picture](#)

[Game: Number games](#)