

Year 2 Compare Number Sentences

Practical Maths Guidance

Activity Outcomes

- Your child will learn to explore mathematical relationships using numbers within 20 and spot patterns to help them build their confidence.
- They will also practise using mathematical vocabulary such as 'more than', 'less than' and 'equal to' and use the corresponding written symbol to show this.

Setting Up

What you will need

- Pots x 6 (cups or any form of small tub would also work)
- Counters - coins, pasta, cereal or homemade paper counters would also work
- Whiteboard and pen (paper will also work)
- Strips of paper with number sentences on (keep the answers within 20)
- Pieces of paper with $<$, $>$ and $=$ written on them

Activity Guide

Activity 1 – Number Pots

- Set up 6 pots filled with different amounts – take care that when added together none of the numbers cross 20. This can be extended out for older children who can use bigger numbers.
- Ask your child to choose two pots and count how many are in each and how many there are altogether. Write this as a number sentence. Then ask your child to choose 2 more pots and repeat, taking care not to lose the first sum as this will be needed next.
- Ask your child to look at the two sentences. Which is bigger, smaller or are they equal? Put the correct symbol between the two sentences to 'compare' them. Return the items back into the cups and repeat.

Activity 2 – Speed Comparison Game

Although this is called a speed game, there is no emphasis on the calculations being solved quickly. Allow your child time to work out their answers

- Using the pre-prepared strips of paper with number sentences on, ask your child to turn them over face down and mix them up.
- The child then chooses two pieces of paper and works out the answer on each and then adds the correct symbol between the two sentences.

Questions you could ask your child during the activity

- Which number sentence is bigger? How could you make them equal?
- What does 'compare' mean?

Further Support and Ideas

- Watch this idea on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqjr0O46wXc&t=9s>
- For tutorials, interactive games and more to support this lesson on fact families visit kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk