

Task notes | Activity

Keep the difference

Y2

➤ Notes for parents and activity.

The purpose of this task is to help your child to use mental strategies, and then check with materials as they:

- work out the difference between two numbers by adding and subtracting.

You need:

- a collection of up to 40 objects (such as clothes pegs, marbles, counters, bottle tops, paper clips, tiny toys)
- two 'covers' (such as tea towels, cardboard, paper, paper plates, boxes)



Here's what you do. Take turns to:

- Put a group of objects under each cover. The number of items in each group should be different. (eg. 5 and 8). Begin with numbers up to and including 10. Use numbers up to 20 when your child is ready.
- Tell the other person how many are hidden in each place.
- That person must say the difference between the hidden numbers. (e.g. 3 is the difference between 5 and 8)
- They must explain by using addition (counting up) or by subtracting. ("I counted 6,7,8. So it's 3." Or, "I said 8 takeaway 5 is 3. So the difference is 3.")
- If the person is correct they uncover the items and **subtract and keep** that number from the larger pile, then check that the piles now have the same number.
- If the person is incorrect they uncover, **subtract and check**, but they don't keep the objects.
- The game finishes when there are 10 or fewer objects left.

