

LESSON  
6

## Number and Operations

# Comparing Groups

This lesson extends children's investigations of numbers to 10 and takes on the additional focus of comparison. Children will count but will also be engaged in comparing two groups. Children will find that there are lots of ways to talk about how two groups compare.

### Objective

Compare groups of 6 to 10 objects.

### Skills

- Counting
- Comparing
- Recognizing numbers

### NCTM Expectations

#### Number and Operations

- Count with understanding and recognize "how many" in sets of objects.
- Develop understanding of the relative position and magnitude of whole numbers and of ordinal and cardinal numbers and their connections.
- Develop a sense of whole numbers and represent and use them in flexible ways, including relating, composing, and decomposing numbers.
- Connect number words and numerals to the quantities they represent, using various physical models and representations.

**Try It!** Perform the Try It! activity on the next page.

### Talk About It

Discuss the Try It! activity.

- Have two volunteers come to the front of the class to demonstrate the game they played during the Try It! activity.
- After the pair picks their cards, have them display the card showing the number of blankets and the card showing the number of Three Bear Family® Counters to the class. **Say:** *Make a guess.* **Ask:** *Do you think the number of blankets is less than the number of Bears? More than the number of Bears? The same as the number of Bears? Why did you make that guess?*
- Then have volunteers set up the actual number of blankets and seat the Bears. **Ask:** *Is the number of blankets less than the number of Bears? More than the number of Bears? The same as the number of Bears? Was your guess correct?*

### Solve It

With children, reread the problem. Tell children that they are the Bears and that they will be using sheets of construction paper for blankets. Invite two volunteers to be in charge of picking the cards. Encourage children to make a guess about the number of blankets and the number of Bears. Select the number of volunteers required by the "Bears" card. Have children set up the correct number of blankets and seat themselves to check their guesses.

### More Ideas

For other ways to teach about comparing groups—

- Have children use Link 'N' Learn® Links to create two chains of different sizes. Have them compare the two chains using the terms *more than* or *less than*.
- Have each child in a pair pull a handful of Snap Cubes® from a paper bag filled with Cubes. Then have children count the Cubes, compare the groups, and describe the groups using the terms *less than*, *more than*, or *same number*.

### Standardized Practice

Have children try the following problem.

*Is the number of squares less than, more than, or the same as the number of Bears?*

