

Other things to try: 7d

Understanding 'same' and 'different'

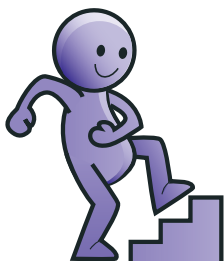


Why is this important?

'Same' and 'different' are concepts used to describe similarities and differences between objects. They are frequently used across the curriculum and are used in the context of numeracy and science in particular.

What to do

- Find pictures of objects in catalogues/magazines that are exactly the 'same' and pictures of things that are 'different', e.g.
 - ★ two identical shoes
 - ★ one cup and one pencil
- Place the two pairs of pictures on the table.
- Ask the child to point to the pictures that are the 'same' or those which are 'different'.
- Real toys/objects can be used if you have got matching items (e.g. two socks vs. one vest; one watch or two spoons vs. one plate and one cup).



Step up

- Introduce items that are different but only slightly (e.g. a red pencil and a blue pencil, two different-size spoons).
- Encourage the child to tell you whether items are the same or different.
- Reduce the use of signs and gestures so the child is relying solely on verbal understanding.
- Encourage the child to sort items, identifying the properties for himself/herself.

Step down

- Use a corresponding gesture or action for 'same'/'different' to help understanding.
- The child may find it easier to distinguish between 'same' vs. 'not the same' to begin with, rather than 'different'.
- Start with objects from different categories to begin with for the two different items (e.g. pen vs. elephant).
- Start by introducing the concept 'same' to begin with (e.g. matching the washing into the pairs of socks that are the 'same'; talking about two items of food that are the 'same', such as two biscuits; colouring two pictures the 'same').

