



## Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy  
MathStart®

**Just Enough Carrots**  
**Comparing Amounts**  
**Level 1 Ages 3+**

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**To formulate addition and subtraction equations involves being able to identify "more," "fewer" and "the same."**

Young rabbit can't understand why Mom is buying so many bags of peanuts and cans of worms at the grocery store when everybody knows carrots are a whole lot tastier. Horse, he notices, has more carrots in his cart, while Elephant has fewer, though Bird has the same amount. H'mmmm... Could Mom be planning a party?  
Illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz.

- Gather together a number of objects such as small toys, plastic spoons, and blocks, and ask your child (or each child in the class) to make piles. Does one pile have more items than the other two? Does one pile have fewer items? Ask your child to make three piles that each have the same number of items.
- Using construction paper, cut out "carrots," "cans of worms" and "bags of peanuts." Give each child a total of 12 items (but mix them up so a child doesn't get 4 of each item!). Ask the children to sort their items. Which do they have more of? Which do they have fewer of? Help them trade with each other to create piles that all have the same number of items.
- Ask questions throughout the story, such as: "Would you eat more carrots than the rabbit would eat?" "Would you eat the same amount of worms that the birds would eat?" "Would you eat fewer worms?"
- Take a "More! Fewer! Same!" adventure walk around your house or around the classroom. For example, in the bathroom, are there more toothbrushes or more bars of soap? Are there the same number of bath towels and washcloths? Are there more bath-toys than bath-takers? In the kitchen: Are there more cups, bowls, or plates on the table at breakfast? At snack time? In the classroom: Are there more boys or girls? Are there fewer boys than girls? Are there the same number of boys and girls? Are there more kids than adults?

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