

Same or Different? Finding Differences and Similarities

Comparing items and pictures that are the same and different will help your child:

- Pay attention to detail
- Remember what he has seen
- See how things are related or unique

Ideas to try with your child:

- Invite your child to help you sort out the silverware in your kitchen. Compare sizes of teaspoons, tablespoons, or serving spoons; and salad forks and dinner forks.
- Lay out four socks: three that are the same and one that is different. Ask your child to hand you the one that is different than the other. If your child is not seeing the difference then point them out “White sock, white sock, white sock, blue sock...” You can do the same with cans of food, coins, or silverware.
- Use a deck of regular playing cards. Lay out three cards that are the same (three 7s) and one card that is different (one 2). Ask your child to find the one that is different.

If your child is struggling:

- Check out the book We’re Different, We’re the Same by Bobbi Kates; or Same, Same But Different, by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw.
- Make and play a game with picture cards showing two animals that are the same and one that is different. For a nice set of pictures to print off, follow this link:
<http://www.kids-pages.com/folders/flashcards/Animals.htm>

Going further:

- Play the game “same, same, different, different.” Choose three of your child’s toys and have the adult go first. The adult has to say one thing that is the same about two of the objects, and then the child has a turn. Then the adult points out something that is different and so does the child. This can be done with socks, clothing, toys, or even pictures in a book.
- Play “Underwater Matchup” game. See if your child can help Gavin organize things under the sea in this same and different game:
<http://www.fun4thebrain.com/preschool/underwatermatch.html>

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Identify up to four objects or pictures that are the same. Take objects or pictures that are different out of the group. , Learning About My World, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 64

