

# Activity Idea

<b>Activity</b>	Hungry Alligator
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<b>Possibilities for maths learning</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Several alligator mouths (example shown below, these can be made from lollipop sticks, card etc.)</li> <li>➤ Number cards</li> <li>➤ Manipulatives to represent numbers e.g. small pompoms</li> <li>➤ 'Alfie the Alligator', by Sandy Turley</li> </ul>
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<b>Activity Outline</b>	<p>Read the book 'Alfie the Alligator' to a group of children to introduce the concepts of 'more than', 'less than' and 'equal to'.</p> <p>Explain to the children you are going to play a game. Explain that Alfie the Alligator is very hungry and we need to help him to get full by choosing which the group has more for him to eat.</p> <p>Draw two number cards from the pile and place them in front of you with a gap in between. (Remember to support children to consolidate numbers to 5). Encourage the children to say each number and to place the correct number of pompoms beneath each card. (You can observe which children do this easily and which children may need more practice with tagging.) Ask the children to confirm the number on the card and to confirm how many pompoms they have (this will help them to develop visual representation of the number needed for cardinality and subitising)</p> <p>Say, "Let's pretend these pompoms are Alfie the Alligators favourite food, cookies. We want to fill Alfie the Alligator up so we need to point him towards the pile which has the most cookies. Which do you think has the most?" Allow children time to answer and expand this by asking the children why, how do they know? This will help you to gain an understanding of their reasoning and problem solving skills.</p>
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	<p>Conclude by saying, <i>“So just help remind me again would Alfie the Alligator rather have five cookies or three cookies?”</i> The children should respond with five. <i>“That’s right Alfie is hungry and five cookies are more than three cookies.”</i> Place the alligator mouth facing towards the five to show this is more.</p> <p>Encourage the children to work through the rest of the cards, taking it in turns to decide which is greater. Listen to the children carefully to get an insight into their knowledge and ability.</p>
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<b>Extension Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Introduce numbers up to 10.</li><li>✓ Reverse the activity to identify the ‘less than’ group.</li><li>✓ Start by placing out the number of pompoms and ask children to pick out the corresponding number card.</li></ul>
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