

# Just Enough Carrots

by Stuart J. Murphy and Frank Remkiewicz

AGE LEVEL 4–6 YEARS

## About the Story

*Just Enough Carrots* introduces your child to the ideas of *more*, *fewer*, and *the same number* through colorful illustrations. A young rabbit and his mother visit the grocery store, where they compare the number of carrots, peanuts, and worms in their cart to the number of items in other customers' carts. The young rabbit dislikes peanuts and worms, but discovers, in a surprise ending, that they are perfect for Elephant and Bird, who visit for lunch.

Yes, Horse has more carrots,



but Bird has the same amount,

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## Words to Learn

### MATH WORDS

more than, fewer than, same, little, any, all of, many more

### OTHER WORDS

chomp, chew, squirm, crawl, munch, crunch, sale

## About the Math

*Just Enough Carrots* is about comparing numerical amounts. The illustrations show examples of customers who have *more than*, *fewer than*, and *the same number* of items as those in the rabbits' cart. While reading the story, your child can learn:

- The difference between *more*, *fewer*, and *the same number*. You can help your child see *more*, *fewer*, and *same* even without counting: The group with the extra items has more and the other has less. And if there are no extra items, the two groups have the same number of items.
- To count the items in a group. Counting them can help your child determine the exact number in each group (4 carrots here and only 1 there) and the exact difference between the groups of carrots (3 more carrots here!) in the cart.

## Activity After Reading

As you unpack groceries from the supermarket, talk with your child about how many items you purchased. For example, you can notice that you have more potatoes than onions or fewer cans of beans than cans of soup. Count the number of items with your child to find out exactly how many more or fewer.

## Math Talk During Reading

### NOTICE THE NUMBER OF ITEMS IN THE CUSTOMERS' CARTS

Who do you think has more peanut bags than the rabbits? Who has fewer peanut bags? Who has the same number?

### PRACTICE CHECKING AND EXPLAINING YOUR ANSWERS USING THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE BOOK

Can you tell me what you think these boxes mean? How do we know that the elephant has more peanut bags than the rabbits?

### CONNECT WITH THE EVENTS IN THE STORY

Would you buy the same number of worms as the rabbits buy?

### MAKE A PREDICTION

If I had two bunches of carrots, would I have more than, fewer than, or the same number of carrots as the rabbits?

### OBSERVE AND COMPARE THE NUMBERS OF OBJECTS AROUND YOU

Let's take a look at our kitchen. Do we have more spoons than forks? How do you know?

*Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!*