Run sheet, Bigger, Smaller, Same

Goal. Every girl puts two real things side by side and says which is bigger, which is smaller, or that they are the same.

Before you start

- Gather three or four things per girl: palm-sized stones, leaves, sticks, large caps, cups. Sizes must differ a lot. Nothing that fits inside a ring of your thumb and first finger.
- At each place: Sheet A and Sheet B, a pencil or one between two. Sheet C only for 60.
- **We compare things, never people.** No girl's body, height or belongings go into a comparison today.

The clock, 30 minutes

- 0 to 4 min: two stones, two words
- 4 to 11 min: side by side, ends level
- 11 to 18 min: the hunt
- 18 to 25 min: the line of three
- 25 to 30 min: hold it up and say it

Run 30 with a new group, 45 with mostly four-year-olds. Shorten the middle, never the close. In 45: 0 to 6, 6 to 17, 17 to 26, 26 to 38, 38 to 45. In 60: 0 to 8, 8 to 22, 22 to 34, 34 to 50, 50 to 60, where the hunt adds Sheet C.

What you do

1. Hold up two stones, one big, one small. Say: "This one is bigger. This one is smaller." All say both back, twice. Then hold up two that match: "These two are the same." All say it back.
2. Show the rule slowly, twice: bring them together, bottoms on one line, then look.
3. Give each girl two things. She lays them out ends level and says aloud which is bigger.
4. Go round. Ask each girl: "Which is bigger? Say the word." Wait for the word, not a point.
5. Hand out Sheet A. Each girl draws the bigger one in the big box, the smaller one in the small box.
6. Say: "Find something bigger than your stone. Now find something smaller." Walk with the ones who wait.
7. Give a third thing to any girl who has ordered two with confidence. Say: "Put all three in a line, smallest first." Hand out Sheet B. Two things is a finished job for the youngest.
8. Ask one girl at a time: "How do you know?" Level her two things in front of her and ask again.
9. Close in a circle. Each girl holds up two things and says one sentence. Repeating is allowed.

Watch for

1. A girl lines two things up with their bottoms level before she answers, without being told.
2. A girl says "bigger", "smaller" or "the same" aloud instead of pointing.
3. A girl puts three things in order and moves one herself when her line is wrong.

What goes wrong most. She answers from where the things are lying, so the far one looks smaller. Bring both to her, ends level, and ask again.

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