

The More, the Better

Primary Objectives

20b. Quantifies

Why It's Important

This activity will support your child's growing ability to compare the quantities of small groups of objects and correctly use comparison words, such as more and less. Becoming more aware of "number" words will help him begin to use comparison words in daily conversation.

Materials

Paper; glue; small objects (rocks, paper clips, beanbags, seashells, etc.); two small jars or clear cups; cotton balls

What You Do

1. Before you begin, place six cotton balls in a small jar. Fill another jar with ten cotton balls. Place the jars on two separate pieces of paper.
2. Invite your child to explore the jars and guess which jar holds more cotton balls. Write the words *more* and *less* on the jars he designates.
3. Explain that he can check his prediction. Encourage him to empty one of the jars and glue the cotton balls on the paper. Ask him to count the cotton balls. Write the number of cotton balls on the bottom of the paper.
4. Repeat with the other jar. Provide assistance, if needed, as he counts and glues the cotton balls.
5. Once your child has counted both sets of cotton balls, ask him which paper has more and which has less.
6. Continue the activity for as long as he is interested. You can vary the game by using collections of other small objects.