

Compare Two Amounts

Yes, you showed me the one that has less dough.



Give your child something to play with, such as playdough or water, that can be divided into two parts.

You can help your child notice amounts and talk about them using the words *more* and *less*.



Why this is important

Recognizing the difference between two amounts is the basis for many math concepts. Your child will enjoy grouping, dividing, and pouring to create amounts she can label with *more* and *less*. Later, she will use her skills to arrange items in a series.

What you do

- Provide playdough for your child.
- Notice when she divides her playdough: *You made this into two different parts. Look, this ball has more playdough and this ball has less.*
- Move the balls around on the table and say, *Point to the one that has more dough. Point to the one that has less.*
- Continue the game by pressing the dough back together and then making a new ball from part of the dough.
- Show her the ball you made and suggest that she make a smaller ball, one with less dough. Describe the balls using the words *more* and *less*.
- Encourage her to use the words by asking, *How much dough does this one have? How much does the other one have?* Help her with the words as needed.

Another idea

Play the game again using two identical cups with water. Your child will learn a new form of more and less by looking at the level of the water in the cups. Then try other materials and containers, such as sand in buckets, air in balloons, or yogurt in bowls.

Let's read together!

Little Rabbits' First Number Book
by Alan Baker