

Comparing Containers: At Home

Comparing Quantities

From the Developing Number Concepts Series by Kathy Richardson

Goals:

- Compare two groups and determine which is more and which is less.
- Tell how many more or less.

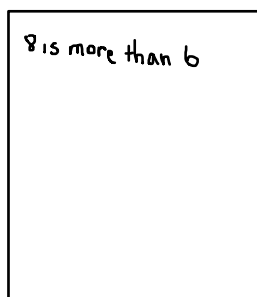
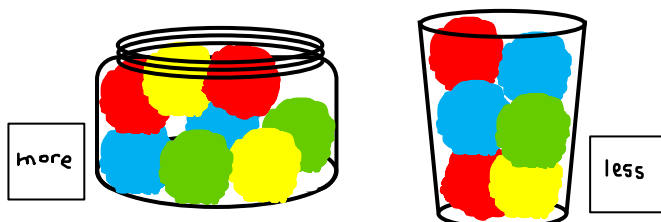
Materials:

- Various small containers such as small jars, yogurt tubs, boxes etc.
- Objects to fill containers (such as pompoms, crumpled paper balls, nuts with shells)
- More/Less/Same cards (cut paper into 2"x3" cards and write More, Less, or Same)
- Paper

Procedures:

1. The child chooses any two small containers and fills both with one kind of counter.
2. He then counts the objects in each container and finds out if one holds more, less or the same as the other. (If the child is unable to say which is more or less after counting, have them line up and match the objects.)
3. The child describes what they found out by:

Labeling with More, Less, or Same Cards or
Describing orally by saying "8 is more than 6" or
Writing the relationship. "8 is more than 6."



What to Watch For:

- Can the child compare two groups and describe one group as more, less or the same?
- Can the child tell how many more or how many less?
- Does the child tell how many more or less by knowing or does he need to figure it out?

Extensions:

1. The child determines "how many more or less" cubes one group has than the other. **(If they have trouble with the language of how many more or less, ask, "What would you have to do to make the counters in this container the same as the other container")**
2. Provide smaller counters to fill the containers so the children will work with numbers to 20.