

BEGINNING QUANTITY DISCRIMINATION

An Activities Guide for Families

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At Home Activities

Petal Number Comparison

When walking by a garden or wild bushes, point to two different types of flowers without picking them. Ask your child to look at the shapes of the petals and tell you which flower has more petals.

Block Tower Showdown

You and your child each build a tower, but give yourselves a time limit (like 30 seconds). When the time is up, put the towers side-by-side and ask, "Which tower has fewer blocks?" or "Which tower has more blocks?"

Handful Face-Off

You grab a small handful of cereal, raisins or something similar, and have them grab a handful. Put your piles next to each other. Before counting, ask them to just look and guess who has more. Then, count them out to verify.

The "Fair Share" Challenge

Give your child an uneven number of small snacks (like 7 grapes or 9 crackers) and ask them to divide the snack between the two of you. When they are done, ask, "Who has more?" and "What can we do to make it equal?"

Water Splash Dots

After washing hands or playing outside, flick water from your fingers onto dry concrete or a dry deck. Look at the two splash zones. Ask, "Which splash zone has *more* water dots?"

Dirt Dot Comparisons

When at the park or in the yard, use your pointer finger to poke holes (dots) into the dirt or sand. Make a tight cluster of dots on the left and a cluster on the right. Ask them to point to the side that has *fewer* dots.

Did You Know?

Humans are born with math skills: Infants are born with an innate ability called "subitizing," which is the instant recognition of small quantities (like knowing there are three dots without having to individually count them).

