

# More, Less, Same with Fingers

Players 1-20+ : Ages 4+ : 5-10 min

## GOAL

To recognize how many fingers are being held up and then show more, less, or the same number of fingers on your hands.

## MATERIALS

Hands



## VOCABULARY

Same  
More  
Less/fewer  
Compare

## QUESTIONS

How did you know?  
How many more?  
How much less?

## HOW TO PLAY

1. Hold your hands behind your back.
2. Bring one hand forward and hold up 3 fingers. Say, "Can you hold up the same number of fingers as me?"
3. Wait for children to show 3 fingers (in any configuration).
4. Put your hands behind your back again. This time, bring one hand forward and show 2 fingers. You can have children show

the **same** number of fingers, or if you'd like to introduce an extra challenge, ask one of the following questions:

**Level 1:** "Can you hold up **more** fingers than me?" Give children time to figure out how to show more fingers.

**Level 2:** "Can you hold up **exactly one more** finger than me?" Give children time to figure out exactly one more than you.

**Level 3:** Ask children to hold up more fingers than you are holding up and then ask, "**How many more** is that? **How do you know?**"

5. When children are comfortable talking about "more than," you can ask the same questions, substituting with the term "**fewer than.**"\* This is an early step toward understanding addition and subtraction.

\*In English, "fewer" is typically used for countable objects, and "less" is used for continuous quantities. In these directions, we use both words because some children and families may be more familiar with one or the other. Use the vocabulary that works best for you.

## TIPS FOR PLAYING

- You can switch roles with the children. Have them hold up their fingers and tell you to hold up more, less, or the same number.
- Show quantities of fingers in all different ways. For example, first show 4 with two hands: 3 fingers on one hand and 1 finger on the other. Then show 4 with 2 fingers on one hand and 2 fingers on the other.

## WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- Talking about more, less, and the same helps build children's math vocabulary.
- Thinking about one more and one less also helps children learn the order of numbers: 4 is one more than 3 and 2 is one less than 3.

## MATH TOPICS

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Number: Counting and Cardinality

## VIDEO

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### Watch Game Video

View the QR code in your smartphone's camera app or QR code reader to watch a video that shows how to play *More, Less, Same with Fingers*.