

Demonstration for the Symbols – *Greater Than, Less Than and Equal To*

The purpose of this activity is to become familiar with the concepts, symbols and words *greater than, less than* and *equal to*.

Equipment needed:

Flash cards with the symbols and words for *greater than, less than* and *equal to*

Procedure:

1. Quickly flash all the cards *twice* in random order while telling the students what is on the card. Shuffle between each time through.

2. Next, choose the symbol cards only. Show the *less than* symbol card. Say, "In math when you see this symbol, you will see a number or number sentence on either side of it. This symbol has one dot at the point and two dots here (pointing to the wide end of the symbol). We know that one is less than two. The point will **always** point to the smaller number. When the symbol is this direction, you read it, *less than*." Choose two students to pick a number card from the 0-100 deck. The student with the smaller number stands to the class's left-hand side; the *less than* card will be in the middle and the larger number on the right. The class can then read the sentence together.

Show the *greater than* symbol. Repeat the demonstration pointing out that two is *greater than* one and putting two cards in order from left to right - largest to smallest. Also remind the students that the point is toward the smaller number. Read the sentence aloud.

Show the *equal to* symbol. Point out that there are two dots on each end of the lines. Say, "Two is the same as or *equal to*, two. When you see this symbol, you know what is on either side has to be the same." Put an example on the board such as $6 = 3 + 3$ and $4 + 4 = 8$.

Each day, do a quick review of these symbols by repeating this exercise. It should only take 2-4 minutes to complete the review. For variety or time savings, write numbers on the board instead of having the student draw from the deck of cards.