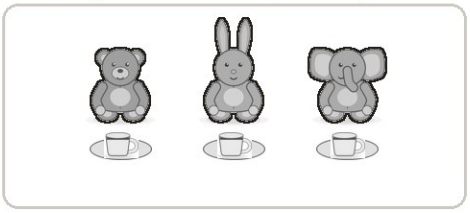
Enough cups? Helping your child check without counting

Parent page · ages 3–4 · goes with the video "Understand the concept"

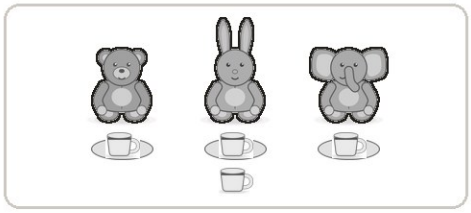
A logical idea

Does your child say "There are enough!" in front of a full tray, without trying? They may be going by what they see: a full tray looks like "a lot." But "enough" depends on two things at once: the cups and the guests.

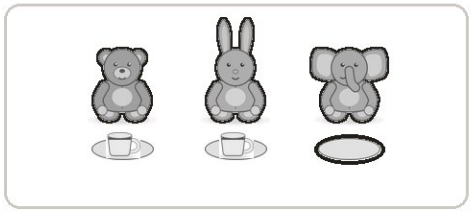
The key idea: one cup each, then look



just enough



some left: enough



someone waits: not enough

No need to count: set the cups down one at a time, one in front of each guest, never serving the same one twice. Then look. Everyone has a cup and none are left: that's just enough. Everyone has a cup and some are left: that's still enough. The tray is empty and someone is waiting: that's not enough. Whether the cups are in a pile or in a long row, the answer doesn't change.

Questions instead of corrections

- "Do you think there are enough?"
- "How could we find out?"
- "Does everyone have a cup?"

After each try: "What do you see?"

Safety

An adult stays close by the whole time. Empty, unbreakable cups, with no food or drinks. Big stuffed animals in good condition, with no small parts that could come off; no miniature toy dishes. At the table: unbreakable plates, nothing sharp or hot. Chairs: just point to them; no climbing or moving them. Use a large, non-toxic crayon suitable for your child's age, or let them point. Keep drawing materials out of mouths. An adult cuts out the strip and puts the scissors out of reach.

Page 2, to do together (no reading needed)

- Show the two pictures at the top: on the left, each stuffed animal has a cup (enough); on the right, one is waiting (not enough). Then say: "Ombi thinks a full tray means there are enough. What do you think?"
- 1, 2, and 3: before drawing lines, your child circles or points to a picture under the question mark ("Do you think there are enough cups for the stuffed animals?"). Then they match one cup to one stuffed animal at a time, drawing or tracing a line with a crayon or finger. Stop when every stuffed animal has a cup or all the cups are used; leave any extra cups unconnected. Finally, they circle a picture under the eye, without erasing their first choice: if every stuffed animal has a cup and one is left over, the "enough" picture fits. If they point, you can draw and circle for them.
- One row at a time: cover the others with a sheet of paper. The cups aren't lined up like the stuffed animals: that's on purpose. Start with row 1; try the other rows and the coupon another time if needed. If matching on paper is difficult, start with two or three real stuffed animals and cups.
- 4. Your child draws a cup (a circle is fine) on each empty place, one per stuffed animal.

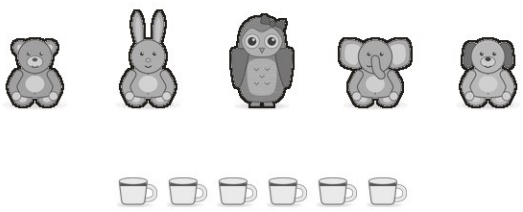
Keep this page out of sight until after the activity. You can also act out each row with real stuffed animals and unbreakable cups.

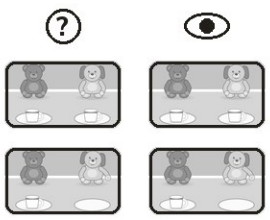
For you, after your child has checked

- 1. Three stuffed animals, four spread-out cups: each one has a cup, and one is left: enough.
- 2. Four stuffed animals close together, three cups in a long row: one is waiting: not enough, even though the row of cups is longer.
- 3. Four stuffed animals, four cups close together: each one has a cup, and none are left: just enough.
- Chair challenge (video): one chair pointed to for each person; some are left over or some are missing.

After checking, can your child show that everyone has a cup, point to a cup left over, or show who is still waiting? One successful try is a clue, not a certainty. If needed, try again another day with real stuffed animals and cups.

A few days later, without making a big deal of it (adult cuts out)

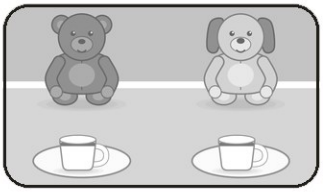


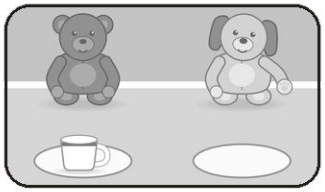


Five guests spaced apart, six cups close together. An adult stays beside your child throughout. Ask: "Are there enough cups for everyone?" Your child points to or circles a choice under the question mark, then matches one cup to each guest, leaving any extra cups unconnected, and circles under the eye. You can draw the lines and circle for them. Answer: everyone has a cup, and one is left: enough.

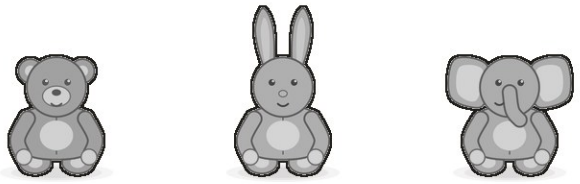


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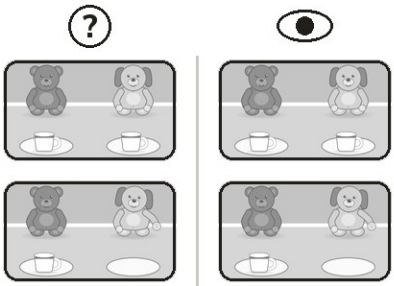




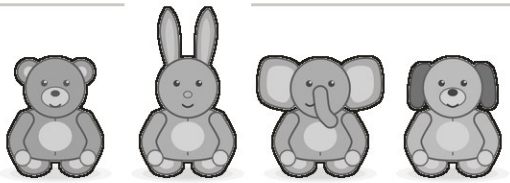
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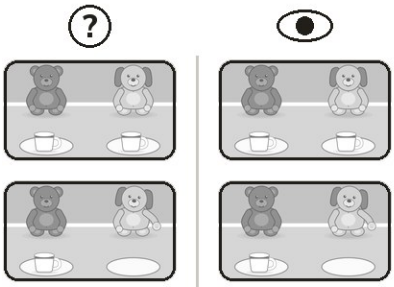




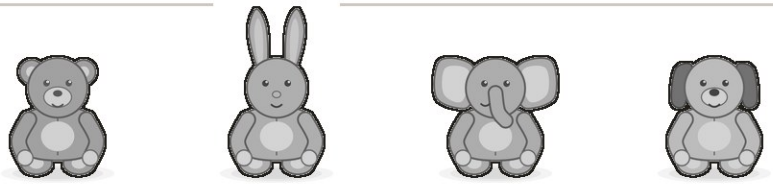
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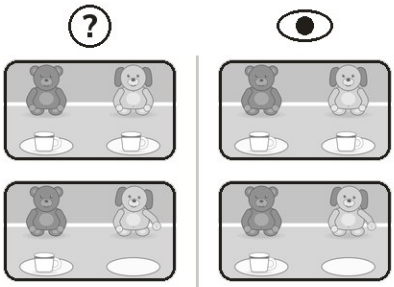




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