

What's Gone?

Let's see if I can remember all the toys.

You've hidden something.

Take away a toy from a group and let your child tell you which one is gone.

Your child will notice things a little more carefully and begin to remember and name something when it is missing.





Why this is important

In the past, your child may not have had a reason to remember a missing item. Playing this game encourages her to pay attention to her surroundings, and to notice and remember objects. Knowing what is missing is a sign that her memory is developing.

What you do

- Leave two toys on the table or floor during clean-up time.
- Name each item and talk about them. *I see a green ball and a brown teddy bear on the floor.* Invite your child to name the toys.
- Ask your child to close her eyes. Remove one toy while her eyes are shut.
- Invite her to open her eyes and tell you which toy is missing. If she cannot remember, put the item back and play again.
- Give your child a chance to lead the game by hiding a toy for you to notice.
- Add more items to the game as she becomes skilled at noticing the missing object. She may name the absent object before you prompt her.

Another idea

Try to play the game throughout the day: You can purposely give her one sock with two shoes or put out her toothbrush and ask her what is missing. Talk about family members who are not present. *I'm here, you're here; who's gone?*

Let's read together!

Five Little Ducks
by Dan Yaccarino