Ages: 4-5

Guess My Rule

3 min



What to do:

1. Quietly sort a few objects into two groups using a secret rule (for example, metal / not metal, or things you can bend).
2. Hand your child a new object: "Where does this go? And why there?"
3. After two or three tries, ask: "So what's my rule?"

Try this too:

Pick a rule that fits two different explanations at once - for example, "everything round" and "everything that rolls." Let your child come up with their own explanation and describe how the two are different.

Adaptation

- **Too hard** - make the rule based on one invisible property: "things you can bend."
- **Too easy** - make the rule based on one obvious property, and give lots of examples.

When you come back to it a month later:

"Remember the secret rule game? This time you make up the rule - and I'll try to guess it (and get it wrong)."

What we practised:

"Your child builds a hypothesis from examples and tests it against new cases. That's exactly what scientists do: the rule isn't given - it's figured out."