

The “What is Missing?” Game

Outcome: This game helps your child improve their working memory and control their impulses, while also teaching them how to follow rules. Self-control and flexible thinking are executive function skills that will benefit your child later on in life during planning, studying, and working.

Materials Needed: A small blanket or scarf (not see-through), some small toys or objects that your child is familiar with. **For example:** a small car, a block, a small rock, a leaf, etc.

How:

- **Start your game with three items.** When your child masters playing with three items, you can add more.
- Show your child each item and name them. Make sure your child knows all the items.
- Cover the items with a blanket.
- Ask your child to cover their eyes, then take one item out from under the blanket without your child seeing.
- Open the blanket and ask your child which item is missing.

Extension:

You can let older children lead the game and let you guess.