Explore together

Clues and Combinations

Use clues to narrow choices and list possibilities without repeats.

Get ready: Scrap paper for cards and a pencil.

01 Two Clues at Once

Draw four cards: big circle, small circle, big and small triangles.
Find a shape that is both big and round.
Only the big circle fits both clues.

02 One Hat, One Scarf

There are two hats and two scarves. Pick one of each.
Pair the first hat with each scarf. Do the same for the second hat.
Two pairs for each hat make four different pairs.

Ask as you play

“Can you show me how you know?” Let your child point, build, draw or tell.

Try it yourself

Clues and Combinations

Point, build, draw or tell. A grown-up can read each question.

1

Circle the small triangle.



A B C D

2

Two shirts: striped or dotted. Three bottoms: trousers, shorts or overalls. Pick one shirt and one bottom. How many different outfits?

3

Use cards 1, 2 and 3 to make all the two-digit numbers you can. Use each card at most once in a number.

4

Rabbit, Bear and Cat each get a different fruit: apple, banana or pear. Rabbit gets apple. Bear does not get pear. What does Cat get?

5 • Try it if you want

Choose two different ice cream flavours from A, B and C. A then B is the same pair as B then A. How many pairs are possible?

Parent answer key

Clues and Combinations

Keep this page with the grown-up.

1 D, the small triangle. It fits both clues: small and a triangle.

2 Six. Each of the two shirts can go with any of the three bottoms.

3 12, 13, 21, 23, 31, 32. Group by the first digit to check for missing numbers.

4 Pear. Rabbit has apple, so Bear must have banana and Cat gets the pear.

5 Three: AB, AC and BC. Reversing a pair does not make a new choice.

What did you notice?

Tried alone, tried with help, or skipped? Pointing, building and explaining all count.

Next time

Ask your child to hold one choice fixed and swap the other. Can they show why no pairs are missing?