

That Doesn't Belong

*What doesn't belong
on the table?*

When setting the table, add an item that should not be there, such as a toothbrush, and wait for your child to discover it.

Your child will develop a clearer understanding of a group by noticing an object that does not belong in the group.

The toothbrush!





Why this is important

Pointing out an object that does not belong helps your child express the reasons why something belongs or does not belong. Noticing the item that is not part of the group helps her clarify her understanding of group membership.

What you do

- Finish setting the table by placing an odd object, such as a toothbrush or a book, near a plate.
- Say to your child: *Something doesn't look right. Would you please come and help me see what doesn't belong?*
- Show her the setting and tell her: *I was setting the table with things we use to eat. But something is there that shouldn't be. Can you see what it is?*
- Draw her attention to it, if necessary, by commenting on the appropriate items on the table: *I know we need a spoon, a cup, and a napkin.*
- Give positive feedback when she correctly locates the object. *You're right! That toothbrush shouldn't be there.*

Another idea

Increase the number of odd objects to be found. Think of other ways to incorporate the game into your time together: a pencil stuck into a crayon box, a sock in the washcloth drawer, etc.

Let's read together!

There's A Cow in the Cabbage Patch
by Clare Beaton