

An extra challenge for parents and caregivers

Gecko: Count from Either End

Challenge: ages 6-7

The goal: predict and explain why counting from either end gives the same total.

Reasoning matters more than speed.

5 ways to stretch the reasoning

1. **Predict before counting.**
   Ask for both totals first, then check.
2. **Explain the matching totals.**
   Ask why they match when nothing joined or left.
3. **Off-screen: plant a double count.**
   The adult counts one spoon twice; your child finds it.
4. **Off-screen: add one spoon.**
   Ask why this change makes the total change.
5. **Invent a fair count.**
   Use objects of your own and check the result.

Your challenge plan

10

minutes

is plenty

- **Predict first**
- **Explain why**
- **Try again**

A gesture or demonstration can answer. Ask for the rule, not only the result.

5 signs deeper reasoning is growing

1. **Predictions match the totals**
   Their expectation agrees with both counts.
2. **Explains why the set stayed equal**
   No object joined or left between counts.
3. **Finds the double count**
   They spot the spoon counted twice.
4. **Separates a new start from a new object**
   A return count does not add another spoon.
5. **Shows every spoon is counted once**
   They check the whole set without repeats.

Try it away from the screen today

Line up 6 spoons. Predict both totals. → **Count both ways.** Explain why they match. → **Add one spoon.** Explain why this is a real change.

✓ No app	✓ No ads, ever	✓ Nothing collected from your child

50 mm · Print at 100%

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