

# Find the real match.

Ages 4–7 with a grown-up · 5–10 minutes · Notice matching details

<https://kiddos.ai/explorations/benny-everyday-detectives/find-the-real-match>

## Wonder together

Meet the mystery sock.

## Materials

Four large clean socks: one matching pair and two different socks. A clear stable surface or clean floor cloth.

## Adult setup – read before trying

Adult chooses one matching pair and two other socks with clearly different visible details. Adult selects large safe objects and a stable reachable surface. No glass, sharp items, small loose parts, blindfolds or climbing. Looking, pointing and directing an adult are welcome. No speed test or required spoken response.

## Try together

1. Adult chooses one matching pair and two other socks with clearly different visible details.
2. Show one sock from the pair. Look at a detail such as stripe count or pattern; color alone may not be enough.
3. Put the other three socks in view. Child points to or brings over the match. Compare the two side by side.
4. Adult asks which detail helped; accept pointing, tracing a stripe or a short description.
5. Mix the socks and swap matcher/clue-giver roles.

## Keep the comparison clear

Keep fixed: sock shape and size; base blue color; stripe width; knit material.

What changes: Stripe count distinguishes candidates; matching pair is then brought together.

Look for: The middle candidate is the match: it has two cream stripes, like the target sock. The other candidates have one and three stripes.

## Explain with care

Match a sock by its visible stripe pattern, then make a matching game together. The middle candidate is the match: it has two cream stripes, like the target sock. The other candidates have one and three stripes.

The pictured match is defined by stripe count and pattern, not color alone. At home, choose a visibly matching pair and explain the detail being compared.

## Talk about it

### What stayed the same?

Answer cue: All picture socks are blue and the same shape.

## **Which detail helped?**

Answer cue: Both matching socks have two cream stripes.

## **How can we check?**

Answer cue: Put the two socks side by side and compare their details.

A parent move: Ask for a helpful detail after the child chooses; let them compare again without scoring.

Start simply: Offer only two candidates or keep the target directly beside the choices.

Explore further: Invite the child to choose a different detail for a new matching round using the same safe socks.

Return to it: Try the same game another day with one adult-approved change. Ask what helped you notice this time.

## **In the classroom**

Flexible 15-minute small-group sequence; prepare materials first, and shorten or pause as needed.

### **2 min · Notice**

Introduce the question and invite a first idea.

### **4 min · Read and compare**

Read the clues and pause before the reveal; compare together.

### **6 min · Try together**

Model the household game, then let pairs take turns with adult-selected objects.

### **3 min · Show your thinking**

Show the two stripes on both matching socks, comparing side by side. Accept pointing, showing or directing an adult; an informal observation, not a score.

## **Understanding check**

Show the two stripes on both matching socks, comparing side by side.

Answer guidance: The middle candidate is the match: it has two cream stripes, like the target sock. The other candidates have one and three stripes.

Participation choices: Accept pointing, showing, words in a home language or directing an adult. Offer only two candidates or keep the target directly beside the choices.

## **Words to explore**

match — Things that share the detail or pattern we are looking for.

detail — A small part you can look at closely.

## **Full adult notes and honest limits**

Ask for a helpful detail after the child chooses; let them compare again without scoring.

The pictured match is defined by stripe count and pattern, not color alone. At home, choose a visibly matching pair and explain the detail being compared.

These are shared activities inspired by Benny's story world. Suggested ages and times are editorial starting points; they are not standardized assessments or measured learning outcomes.

## **Related reading**

Meet Benny in Benny the Forest Detective, an interactive Little Clue Tales forest mystery about noticing clues, counting, matching, sequencing and sharing. This household game is a new carousel activity, not a page or experiment from the book. Browse Kiddos Books for the digital story and Amazon for the physical titles currently available; this link does not promise a matching paperback.

## **Scientific sources**

NAEYC — Making Math Meaningful for Young Children —  
<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/oct2014/making-math-meaningful>

NAEYC / NCTM — Early Childhood Mathematics — <https://www.naeyc.org/positionstatements/mathematics>

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