

# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

## Primary Objectives

20a. Counts

## Why It's Important

Math experiences can be found everywhere, even when you and your child are setting the table for dinner. While you are getting the extra help from your child, take time to provide her with an extra math lesson. This activity will support her growing ability to correctly distribute one item to each person at the table.

## Materials

Small plates; spoons; forks; small cups; plastic knife (optional); bowls; placemats

## What You Do

1. Before lunch or dinner, ask your child to help you set the table. Count aloud together the number of people who will be sitting at the table.
2. Invite your child to pick out the correct number of placemats, napkins, utensils, plates, bowls, and cups from the cabinet. Engage her in a conversation about her task. *Can you find the forks? What do we use placemats for?*
3. If needed, set up one place setting for your child to copy. Suggest that she use the example to set the other places at the table.
4. When she is finished setting the table, talk about how many of each object she put on the placemats. *How many people did you count who will be at the table? How many napkins did you need to use?*
5. Encourage your child to help in other ways to get ready for snacks and meals. Acknowledge her efforts and thank her for her assistance.