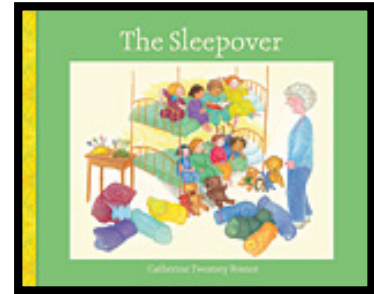


The Sleepover

Jesse enjoyed Catherine Twomey Fosnot's story *The Sleepover*, (available at <http://www.heinemann.com/products/E01006.aspx>).

Aunt Kate is taking care of eight kids who are having a sleepover in a bunk bed. She notes four kids on the top bunk and four on the bottom and goes to get snacks for them, which she arranges on a tray in two rows of four to match the kids on the bunks. When she returns, they've shifted to five and three. Aunt Kate is unsure whether her $4 + 4$ snacks will be the right amount for $5 + 3$ kids (at first she even thinks she's lost a kid). The book goes through several but not all possibilities of combinations to make eight as Aunt Kate keeps returning with another treat.



Four year-old Jesse was able to use one-one correspondence to figure out there were in fact, enough snacks in each case. But he was also interested in figuring out whether there were other ways to trick Aunt Kate (using reasoning toward generality. However, his imagination soon led him to having the kids move in and out the bedroom window, which took the focus off compensation!) While riding in the car the next day, I asked him what would happen if there were ten kids at the sleepover (another attempt at reasoning that pushes toward greater generality). I asked him how many ways could they trick Aunt Kate? He engaged for a bit, but this was pretty challenging without materials to manipulate. We'll try another time....

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