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Thank you for participating in the study “Children’s Understanding of Inferences”. The study is now complete and the results have been analyzed. The purpose of the study was to investigate the development of children's ability to reflect on their own thought processes. Children in kindergarten through fourth grade participated. Children were asked to judge their own certainty about a simple fact, such as the color of a hidden toy. Children learned this fact by making a logical deduction, a generalization, or a guess. For example, for the logical deduction children saw a red marble and blue marble. The marbles were hidden in separate containers. Children looked into one container and then were asked to name the color of the marble in the other container. Next, children were asked how certain they were about the color of the second marble and how they knew the color. For the generalization, children saw a sequence of toy dinosaurs. The first two were green, and children were asked what color the next one would be. For the guess, children were told that there were two cars hidden in boxes. They were asked to name the color of one of the cars without looking at it.

The results indicated that beginning in kindergarten children recognize that a logical deduction is more certain than a guess. By third grade children are beginning to recognize that deduction is more certain than generalizations or guesses, and by fourth grade children regard deductions as more certain than generalizations and also regard generalizations as more certain than guesses. Thus, during the elementary school years it appears that children gradually become aware of differences among different kinds of thinking. Learning to reflect on their own feelings of certainty may be a first step in children’s learning about the nature of different types of reasoning. These results add to our growing understanding of children’s ability to think about their own thinking and to reason logically. This research may be useful in teaching children to understand scientific reasoning. The results have been presented at two conferences – The Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development and the meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. The results also have been published in an article in the journal *Child Development*. Thank you for your participation in this study. Your cooperation and help were greatly appreciated.