

## Appearance-Reality Task a.k.a Smarties Task

In the "appearance-reality", or "Smarties" task, experimenters ask children what they believe to be the contents of a box that looks as though it holds a candy called "Smarties." After the child guesses (usually) "Smarties," each is shown that the box in fact contained pencils. The experimenter then re-closes the box and asks the child what s/he thinks another person, who has not been shown the true contents of the box, will think is inside. The child passes the task if s/he responds that another person will think that there are "Smarties" in the box, but fails the task if s/he responds that another person will think that the box contains pencils. Gopnik & Astington (1988) found that children pass this test at age four or five years.