Table 1
A truth table representation of the task in Experiments 1 and 2[a]

Statement about covered box	Parrot-only Box	Parrot + Bear Box	Evaluation of statement
There has to be a parrot	True	True	True
There does not have to be a parrot	False	False	False
There might be a parrot[b]	True	True	True
There cannot be a parrot	False	False	False
There has to be a bear	False	True	False
There does not have to be a bear	True	False	True
There might be a bear	False	True	True
There cannot be a bear	True	False	False

[a] Participants see two boxes, one that contains a parrot by itself and another containing a parrot and a bear. They are shown a third box that remains covered and told 'All I (the experimenter) know is that this (covered) box looks like this (Parrot-only) box or this (Parrot + Bear) box.' All statements end with the phrase 'in the box'.
[b] This statement underdetermines the actual state of affairs because there has to be a parrot in the covered box.

Table 2
Percentage of correct responses to modal statements which concerned what was necessarily in the hidden box (i.e. the parrot) and what was possibly in the hidden box (i.e. the bear) in Experiment 1[a]

Presented statements	Is the puppet right?	Age (years) (*n*)			
		5 (32)	7 (20)	9 (16)	Adults (20)
		Necessary conclusion (parrot)			
Has to be a parrot	Yes	75*	90**	88**	100**
Does not have to be a parrot	No	72*	75*	75*	100**
Might be a parrot	Yes	72*	80**	69	35
Cannot be a parrot	No	66	80**	100**	100**
Total		73**	81**	83**	83**
		Possible conclusion (bear)			
Has to be a bear	No	47	65	88**	100**
Does not have to be a bear	Yes	66	75*	81**	100**
Might be a bear	Yes	53	80**	100**	100**
Cannot be a bear	No	53	80**	100**	100**
Total		55	75**	92**	100**

[a] $*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$.

Table 4
Rates of correct responses to the six types of sentences presented in Experiment 3[a]

Sentence type	Correct response	Age (years) (*n*)		
		7–8 (31)	10–11 (30)	Adults (15)
Utterances expressed with *All*				
Absurd (false) (e.g. All chairs tell time)	No	93	99	99
Appropriate (true) (e.g. All elephants have trunks)	Yes	91	99	96
Inappropriate (false) (e.g. All dogs have spots)	No	86	99	96
Utterances expressed with *Some*				
Absurd (false) (e.g. Some stores are made of bubbles)	No	95	99	98
Appropriate (true) (e.g. Some birds live in cages)	Yes	84	90	99
Inappropriate (true though pragmatically infelicitous) (e.g. Some giraffes have long necks)	Yes	89	85	41

[a] There were five exemplars of each type. Values are given as percentages.

(Noveck, 2001)