

**FIGURE 3.3**Models for $9 - 4$ as a missing-part problem.**ACTIVITY 3.2****Missing-Part Subtraction**

A fixed number of counters is placed on a mat. One child separates the counters into two parts while the other child hides his or her eyes. The first child covers one of the two parts with a sheet of tagboard, revealing only the other part (see Figure 3.3). The second child says the subtraction sentence. For example, "Nine minus four [the visible part] is five [the covered part]." The covered part can be revealed if necessary for the child to say how many are there. Both the subtraction equation and the addition equation can then be written.

From Van de Walle, J. A. & Lovin, L.H. (2006). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades K – 3*. Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 74).