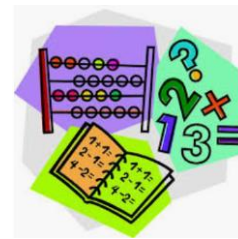


# Sorting Activities



**Sorting** is a beginning maths skill. ...

By **sorting**, **children** understand that things are alike and different as well as that they can belong and be organized into certain groups. Getting practice with **sorting** at an early age is **important** for numerical concepts and grouping numbers and sets when they're older.

As with all skills there is a developmental sequence of understanding:

1. **Identifying and describing attributes**- children need to be able to notice the attributes of a particular object. They need to develop the language which helps them explain their thinking. They need to be able to notice the details and to be observant.
2. **Matching**- here children are focusing on the sameness of an attribute. Children need to be able to express why they are matching objects that are the same ie teddies altogether or all the dinosaurs together. Matching nurtures children's reasoning skills.
3. **Sorting**- a step further than matching as children group different objects with one or more attribute. Sorting involves making a variety of different decisions. The ability to sort using two or more attributes embodies higher order thinking.
4. **Comparing**- children make a decision based on the amount of an attribute two objects hold. Here children are engaged with determining which object possesses more or less of an attribute. Children develop their vocabulary of comparative description. They also develop an understanding that comparing is relative to the situation and that an objects description can change depending on what it is being compared with. Children begin using "er" words for example bigger, darker etc.
5. **Ordering**- children can only order when they are able to identify and describe attributes, notice differences and make comparisons. Ordering involves arranging objects according to increasing or decreasing amounts of an attribute. Children use "est" words for example biggest, darkest.

Classifying and **sorting** activities can also be good for developing fine motor skills.

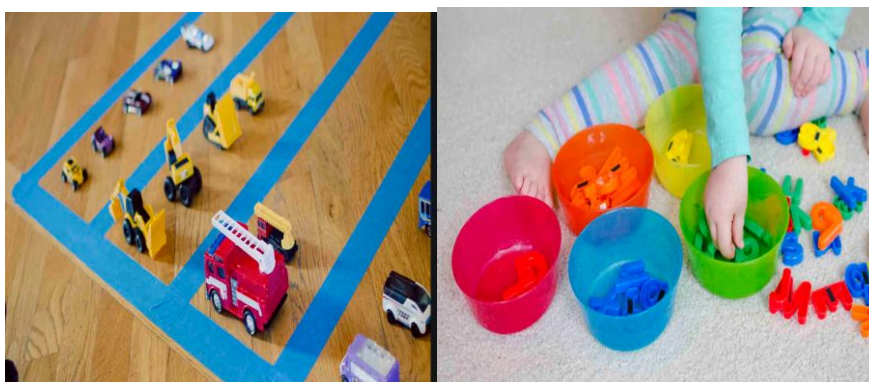
Have a go with some of these ideas:

Can your little one match their toys together so they are the same?

Match up the objects in your food cupboard ie, jars in one pile and tins in another.



Can your little one sort the toys so they are all the same colour or size?



Can your little one compare the toys they have sorted?

You can introduce key language ie they are the same teddy but they are different sizes.



Can your little one order their toys from smallest to biggest?



You can then move on to patterns

