

Sorting Game

Primary Objectives

13. Uses classification skills

Why It's Important

Children may notice differences between objects but may not be given opportunities to put their observations into words. Giving your child a set of objects to sort and then asking her to talk about the groupings helps her think purposefully about the similarities and differences between the objects.

Materials

Cardboard box; set of large and small matching objects

What You Do

1. Place the sets of small and large objects in the box. Invite your child to look through the objects and talk about what she finds.
2. Ask your child to think of a way to group the objects. Prompt her to discuss the options for creating groups. *How could we put these objects into different piles? What do you notice about them that is alike? What is different?*
3. Offer assistance as needed as she sorts the objects. Allow her to be creative in how she creates her groups.
4. When she is finished, encourage your child to talk about how she grouped the objects. Ask questions that help her think of the process she used to separate the items into groups. *I see you have three piles. How did you decide what to put in each one?*
5. Continue the activity for as long as your child is interested.