

Putting Things in Order: Sorting and Making Patterns

What to do:

1. Show your child the objects or toys. Watch how he or she plays. She might arrange them in a line or put them in groups. Ask her to tell you about what she is doing.
2. Encourage your child to line up the objects in order. Ask, "Can you put them smallest to largest? Which one is smallest?"
3. Suggest that your child sort the objects into groups. "Can you put all the red ones in this pile? And the blue ones here?"
4. Make a pattern of objects with different characteristics - for example; make a line that goes car, car, truck, car, car, truck. Ask your child if she can tell you what comes next.
5. On the piece of paper, trace around some of the objects, and ask your child to put the objects into the right shapes.

How to extend activity:

Thinking skills usually develop in a progression; your child can first match objects, and then sort them into groups. Then they will classify different objects. Continue doing this activity and working on these cognitive skills.

Materials:

- Everyday objects or toys that have similar characteristics
- Blocks of different sizes, shapes and colors
- Markers
- Piece of paper



What they will learn:

Motor Skills: When your child holds and manipulates objects, she is exercising the small muscles in her fingers.

Cognitive Skills: Telling you why she put the objects in the order that she chose helps your child understand math concepts.