

Sort Any Way You Like

What to do:

1. Trace the shape of large and small circles on the various forms of paper or foil.
2. Cut two large circles and two small circles from the (3) three different forms of paper or foil.
3. Supervise or help your child cut the circles.
4. Spread the 12 circles on the table or floor.
5. Mix the shapes more than one time so that your child can find different ways to group the circles.
6. Every time your child groups the shapes comment on his/her work by saying, "You did a good job matching the same shapes," or, "You worked very carefully with matching the circles," or, "I am very proud of you." Provide other affirmations about the accomplishments your child with grouping the shapes.



Materials:

- Scissors (child-size)
- Three (3) different sheets of color paper, copier paper, notebook paper, a box, brown paper bag, foil

Questions:

1. What is the name of this shape? Show your child the circle shape.
2. What are the colors of the shape? Show your child the various colors.
3. Can you match the large circles?
4. Can you match the small circles?
5. How many large circles?
6. How many small circles?
7. Observe quietly as your child groups the circles. When your child is finished say, "tell me about this group?"

Why is this activity important?

Sorting shapes according to similarities and differences encourages your child to use their critical thinking skills. When comparing, children determine if an object has more or less of an attribute. This game gives your child the experience in considering several possible solutions, this is called divergent thinking. Classifying and sorting activities help children develop a range of thinking skills and builds the foundation for later problem solving.