

Rock Sorting

Directions:

This activity is a fun way to get outside to discover different rocks and put them into different categories.

1. Write small, medium, and large on an individual piece of paper or trace the three sizes. Drawing the size of the rock makes it easier for your child to make the connection.
2. Discuss with your child the three sizes labeled on the basket or container.
3. Tell your child both of you are going on a nature walk.
4. Walk around your block or even go to a forest preserve whatever you decide.
5. Encourage your child to collect different rocks.
6. Put the collected rocks in your basket or container.
7. When you are done collecting rocks find a perfect spot to sit down and sort the rocks.
8. Spread the size labels on the ground.
9. Encourage your child to spell each word (help if they need support to identify each letter).
10. Encourage your child to sort the rocks he/she had collected by size

Materials:

Basket or container
paper
pencil

Questions to ask your child:

1. Where do you think rocks are formed?
2. What do you think is inside a rock?
3. How many rocks are in the _____
(small, medium and large) group?
4. What can we build with rocks?
5. What other places do you think we could find rocks?
6. Do you think rocks can be found in water or dirt?



Why is this activity important?

A nature walk is an excellent way to stimulate a child's appreciation for the natural world. A child is encouraged to feel the texture of rocks. Rocks and minerals are all around us as part of the earth used for building materials. Sorting objects helps children learn to separate them according to similarities and differences. Children learn through comparing and understanding objects. Classifying and sorting activities help children to develop a range of thinking skills and build the foundation for later problem solving.