

Fun Math for Little Ones: Sort It Out

Sorting and describing items by size, color and shape will help your child:

- Organize and make sense of his environment
- Recognize things that are the same and different
- Learn how to compare and categorize



Ideas to try with your child:

- In the kitchen together, arrange measuring spoons or cups from smallest to largest.
- Sort socks together while doing the laundry and see how many matches you can find together.
- Gather as many colorful lids as you can and sort them by size and color. Ask questions like, “What color is this?” and “Which is bigger?”
- Work with your child to group toys together by type or color. Ask questions like, “Why did you put these together?” This could turn clean-up time into a game to put blocks in one place, crayons in another, and so on.

If your child is struggling:

- Get out the blocks and have him put them in groups by color, then size.
- After a trip to the grocery store have her help sort the food to go to the freezer, fridge, or pantry.
- Using a muffin tin, ask your child to sort fruity cereal by color – one color in each tin.

Going further:

- Collect leaves on a nature walk and line them up smallest to largest when you get home.
- Have a sorting party to put clothes from the laundry pile into groups of shirts, pants, underwear, and socks.
- Try a fun sorting game here: http://www.abcy.com/counting_sorting_comparing.htm

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Sort and describe by size, color and/or shape.” *Learning About My World, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 64.*