

Matching - Finding Pairs: Ages 4-5

Matching activities will help your child:

- Understand the ideas of “same” and “different”
- Learn to identify items that go together
- Identify opposites

Ideas to try with your child:

- Play matching games with your child. Ask your child to find things that are the same and different. “Uno,” “Go Fish,” or picture-matching games are great for this.
- Have your child gather and group items that go together such as shoes and socks, or flowers and vases. Talk about why they go together.
- Play sorting games with your child. Have your child sort different objects into groups. They could sort their toys according to size, color, texture, etc.
- Play the game concentration. Templates are available to print for free at <http://www.dltk-cards.com/memory/>.

If your child is struggling:

- Have your child sort everyday items. For example, mix 2-3 types of cereal or pasta together and have your child sort them by type into different piles.
- Start with one grouping. While in the car or at the store with your child, have them point out all of the blue items they see, or all of the red ones.

Going further:

- Go to the park and have your child identify things that go together in nature (bird and nest, for example).
- Give your child more challenging categories (items with more than 4 sides, items with no sides, light colors, dark colors, etc) and ask them to place items into those groups.

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 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.

