



HELLO PARENTS,

Children have a natural desire to make sense of the world around them; they match, compare and categorize in order to organize what they know. Sorting is the ability to identify similarities and differences among objects, and to group and name them accordingly. This process is used in math, science, and music, but is also useful in everyday life. Classifying and sorting activities help children to develop a range of thinking skills as well as build the foundation for problem solving, making decisions, and coping with unusual situations. In this newsletter, you will find activities for your child to practice classification and sorting.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

MATCHING BALLS

MATERIALS:

- Box
- Different size balls
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut out different size holes in the box to fit balls.
- Let your child try fitting the balls in the holes and give them lots of time for experimenting.
- Talk to them about their efforts and actions: "Oh, no, it doesn't fit", "Let's see where this one fits".

[Click here](#) for another activity.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

SORTING CUTLERY

MATERIALS:

- Cutlery divider
- Forks, butter knives, spoons

DIRECTIONS:

- After unloading the dishwasher (or when the dishes are clean), let your child assist you to sort the cutlery into the divider.
- Compare sizes and types of cutlery, show your child how the same goes with the same, etc.
- Have fun and make some cutlery songs in between.
- Repeat this activity each time you put away the dishes.

[Click here](#) for more sorting activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

POM-POM GAME

MATERIALS:

- Plastic cups
- Straws
- Pom-poms in different colours
- Container for the pom-poms

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the pom-poms in a container.
- Line up the cups on their sides on the table with the open ends facing your child.
- Place a different colour pom-pom inside each cup.
- Place one pom-pom on the table and ask your child to use the straw and blow the pom-pom into the cup with the same colour pom-pom.
- Repeat until all pom-poms are sorted out.

[Click here](#) for more sorting ideas.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

SORTING RECYCLABLES

MATERIALS:

- Recycle bins or cardboard boxes
- Paper and pen
- Recycle materials

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read "The Earth Book" by Todd Parr.
- After reading the book, bring out recycle bins labeled with the words: paper, plastic, metal.
- Encourage your child to sort and place the recycled materials in the correct bin.
- If your child has difficult time determining which bin to use, ask questions: "Can you rip it like paper or cardboard?", "Is it shiny like metal?"
- Involve the whole family in this fun activity.

[Click here](#) to more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

MAKING A MENU

MATERIALS:

- Paper and pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- Each player will make lists of five items under each of the following categories:
 - Food that begins with "b"
 - Fast food
 - Food that is white
 - Food that grows below ground
 - Food that grows on trees
 - Your five favourite foods
- When all players are done creating their "menus", read them out loud and compare.
- Make a graph showing the five favourite foods of the players.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Provide real-life opportunities for sorting (separating dark and white laundry, putting away dishes, etc.).
- Turn cleaning up toys into a game (have your child sort their toys by colour or other attributes, from the biggest to the smallest, etc.).
- Model and talk about what you are doing: "I am putting in a green Lego", "Here is a ball; put it in the box with balls."
- Provide materials for sorting and allow your child lots of time for practice.