



Matching and Sorting

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As our child builds their knowledge and curiosity about the world around them, it becomes important for them to be able to make observations about how things are alike and different. These observational skills can be applied in all aspects of learning from reading and writing to math and science. Sorting and matching also helps students begin to build problem solving and critical thinking skills. While we as adults automatically sort and match items, children need to build their capacity to recognize similarities and differences in order to categorize and sort items.

A great way to support your child in building these skills is to model your own thinking. As you are matching up socks in the laundry, think out loud and verbalize the thought process. Ask your child to help you in this type of everyday task. "Hmmm, this sock is white with blue polka dots, can you help me find another sock that is just like this one? I see one sock that is white, but it has green stripes, so that is not a match..." You can also set up learning experiences using household items such as buttons and egg cartons. Ask your child to find buttons that are the same color and put them together in one section of the egg carton. Nature is another great place to practice this skill. Collect rocks with your child and ask them to describe how they feel and look. These observational skills will help them to be better able to identify similarities and differences. Once you have talked about the rocks, ask them to sort them into groups of big and small rocks.

You will find a variety of activities in the Matching and Sorting chapter that will foster the growth of these early mathematical skills.

Your child will take a trip under the sea in this fun video that integrates the science concept of camouflage and color matching.



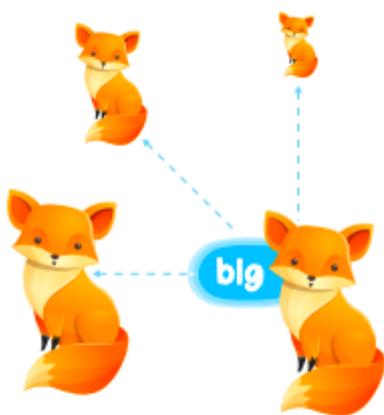
Watch on [YouTube](#)

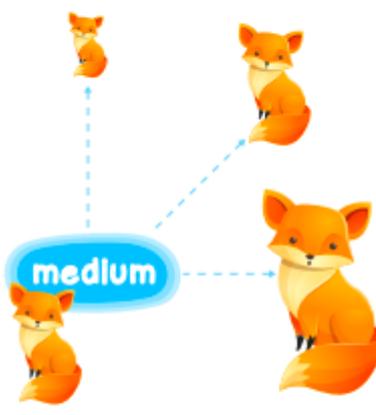
This adorable sorting activity encourages children to think about sorting based on size. Children will use vocabulary words such as big, medium, and small to describe and sort pictures.

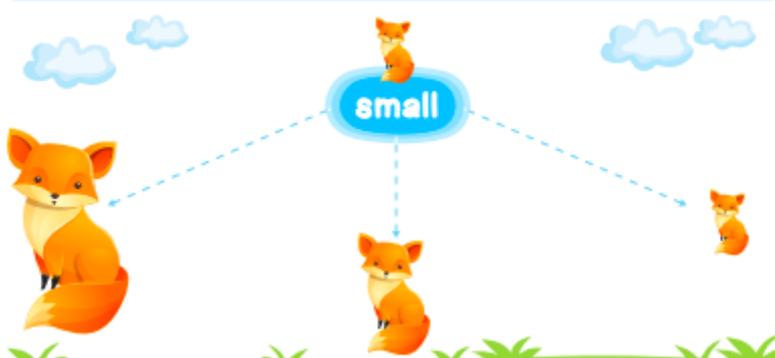
Sorting by Size! 

 **big**  **medium**  **small**

Sort the foxes by size. Trace on the dotted lines to put the foxes in the right group.







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Out on the high seas, your child will need to pay attention to both colors and patterns as they sail into this fun activity!

Set Sail: Matching Game

Look at the sail on the left.
Then circle the sail that is exactly the same.



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Matching and sorting activities are fun and beneficial in so many ways. Check out more of our resources using the Kids Academy catalogue!

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