

The background features vibrant, abstract brushstrokes in shades of teal, yellow, and pink. Scattered throughout are various geometric shapes, including purple circles, triangles, and squares, some of which are layered over the brushstrokes.

Sorting Stuff

Children have a natural desire to make sense of their world and, for that reason, sorting activities can really help a child organize their world using all of their senses. Parents and providers can help by encouraging children to collect and then sort items, such as rocks, coins, shells, blocks, etc.

Such collections are interesting and children can group and regroup the items based on size, type, texture or color.

SEE THE SAMPLE ARTICLE ON THE NEXT PAGE THAT YOU CAN SEND HOME TO FAMILIES TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH SORTING OR YOU CAN POST IT ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD.

Dear Parents,

Children learn many math skills long before they are ready for the basics of addition and subtraction. One of these skills is the ability to sort objects.

When they sort, children group things that belong together in some way. Kids often sort by color – red blocks in one group, blue blocks in another – or by shape – triangle blocks her, rectangle blocks there.



When children's rooms are organized, their toys become natural objects to sort. At cleanup time, alphabet blocks go into one container, colored blocks into another, farm animal figures in one tub, and toy cars into a box.

In helping with the laundry, children can sort clothes into piles of shirts, shorts, pants, underwear, or socks.

After dishes are done, kids can put away knives forks, and spoons. In helping to put away groceries, children can divide boxes from cans or bathroom items from kitchen items. By lending a hand in sorting things into the appropriate recycling containers, children also develop earth-friendly habits.

Early in the child's explorations of sorting activities, adults play and useful role by providing words for what the child is doing ("I see you are putting all the square blocks together").

We also can help extend the sorting ("Let's see if we can find all the rectangle blocks"). In time the child begins to use these words and expand his or her understanding of the mathematical world.