

We hope you have enjoyed this leaflet . We invite you to make any donations towards our water area as we are encouraging children to love the world around them. Many thanks.



If I have used any images that infringe copyright in my desire to help parents and children I apologise . We do not charge for these leaflets and should we have offended in any way please get in touch with school.
Many thanks..



Sunningdale School
Shaftoe Rd.
Sunderland
SR3 4HA
Tel: (0191) 553 5880



Sorting Fun
with children!



Why sort and group ?

- It gives children the opportunity to make sense of their world, to create order in a world that seems largely out of their control.
- Teaches the child to organise their world using all of their senses and develop discrimination skills.
- Sorting is a beginning maths skill. Children understand that things are alike and different, that they can belong to and be organised into certain groups. (important for numerical concepts and grouping numbers and sets when they're older). It is also relevant to science which is based around classifying.
- This type of thinking starts children on the path of applying logical thinking and mathematical concepts in everyday life, which will make it more concrete rather than separated experiences that they cannot 'transfer.'
- Sorting helps the brain to create more organised thoughts and ways of retrieving information.
- This brain understanding is likely to become 'independent' and not so reliant on adults .
- Children often start to sort objects naturally, it is something that many children enjoy.
- Sorting can and should be based on the use of all of the senses.
- It creates wonderful opportunities to develop language and communication skills.
- It can be done anywhere by anyone from tiny children to adults!
-

If you enjoyed this booklet you may also like

Matching activities with children

Spelling

Creative re-use set ... Card, tubes, bags and bottles

Fun with hoops

Fun with a pool noodle

Little feet

Sing for your supper

And many more coming soon

In the research for this booklet images are reproduced from a multitude of sources . I don't know how to ascertain copyrights or who owns many images from the public domain. We aim only to help children (and their families) and seek to make no money from these publications. If I have unwittingly infringed a copyright please contact school so that we can discuss it and I will remove them
Many thanks .



Consider what you are asking, the first example relies only on reading, the next has a colour clue but no collection to add to ...



Match objects to objects, then to photos .. Especially if they can't see the group being formed.

It's better to let children handle and sort objects then put into something they can still see.



To sort, the child needs at least two different types of objects.

Move from being able to sort two things (same and different) to three, four etc.

Know child's stage of development and what they're capable of through observation and of course, trial and error.

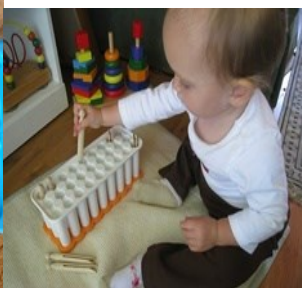
Allow children to play with and explore resources and then slowly model to them 'sorting' before encouraging the child to try independently. It isn't about being right or wrong as we'll see later!

Ok things to sort into/onto.....the child can put the objects into sorting trays, bowls, cups, egg cartons, divided containers, paper lunch bags or simply line or stack them up. Here are some visual examples



Sorting is a great opportunity to develop fine motor skills (using our hands) so you can use tiny objects for pincer pinch, tweezers, tongues, spoons, etc to develop the child's manipulation skills.

Things to use to sort into



Food trays, here rubbers, cards and old pen lids are sorted .



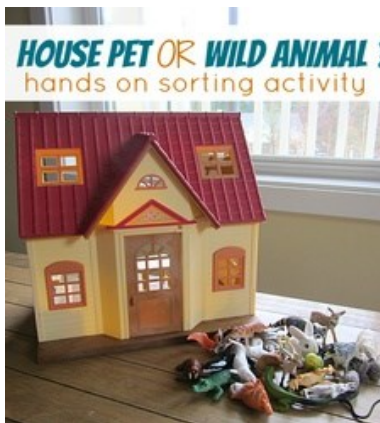
Ice cube trays of different shapes and sizes are good for small things ... pill cases and cheap make up trays.



Use as many natural resources as you can and help children to create ' Art'.

Look for examples of groups and collections all around us !





Use stories to stimulate e.g. 'The 3 little pigs' Noah's Ark

Ideas for shorting by category:

How ripe is it? Has it got peel? Does it grow or not? Living or not living?

Types of plants, ages of people in photos, Types of stuffed animals (cats, teddy bears etc), water, air or land animals,

Types of dinosaurs. Sort real or plastic food by food groups, safe or unsafe , Photos of day and night scenes.

Types of toys (puzzles, art, blocks, animals). Healthy food/junk food, food we eat with fingers, foods from different countries, floating and sinking, indoor or outdoor habitats, fiction or non fiction, transport in air sea and land. The list goes on



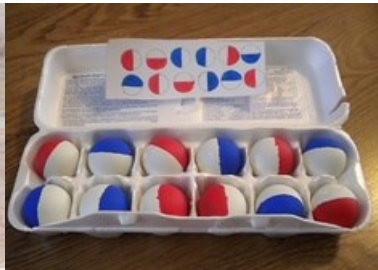
Baking cake trays .. vary how you use depending on the child

Trays, soap holders, cake stands



Sticky paper on the window ..





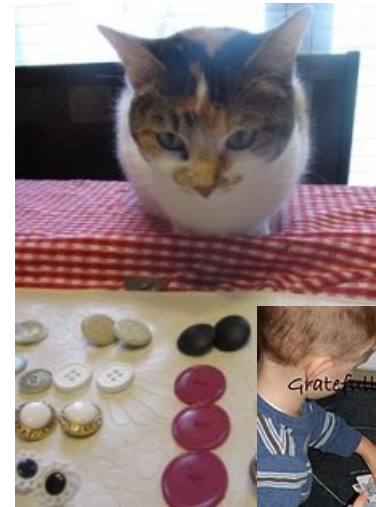
Egg cartons can go anywhere and are easy to carry—use lid for model or to



Lids from containers, jars. Tupperware boxes can be used, paper plates, bowls, boxes... initially use containers that are the same to sort but a different one to hold the collection.



Painting palettes, washed food packaging are good as light, free and often in compartments.

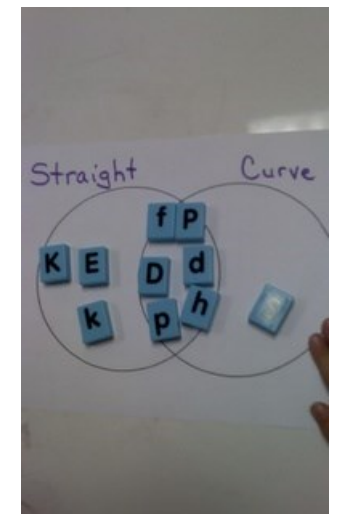


Involve everyone. Make your own sorting equipment

Show how museums do it, artists do it, sorting is universal



Add together, visually discriminate



Invite children to sort and group anywhere, anytime



Pegs on teddy, pegs on handle of draw.



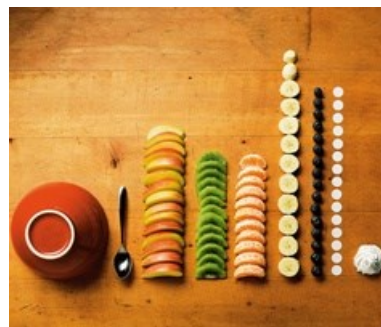
Outside as well as inside , real objects.



Group and count snacks ..



Make patterns, sort by colour, shape size, shape....



Use hoops ...



Old tea

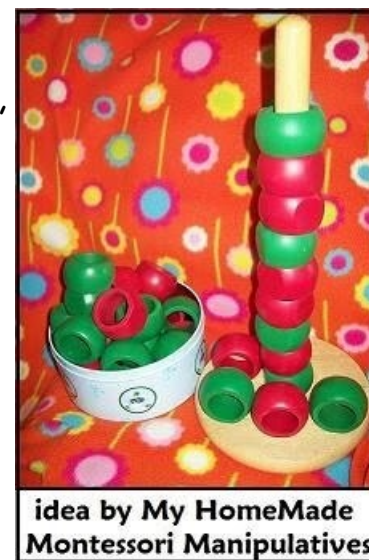
light holders, tubes



Use play dough .. Can stick objects in collection into it, or work in cut out shape to make collections.



Kitchen roll stand, spaghetti stick in pasta, jewellery stand



idea by My HomeMade Montessori Manipulatives



Use things designed to sort like cutlery trays to sort other things. Consider size, weight and size of the child who needs to handle it.



Use things associated with games already e.g. a parachute, twister .. that already has sections marked clearly!



Try to give children experiences that use all their senses. For example how things feel. They can also sort by texture. Start with matching items e.g. find something furry. If you give them something furry first so they know what they are feeling. Select items that are very 'touchy/feely' to use and those very different e.g. sandpaper and cotton wool.

Children can sort by sound-for example by same or different (e.g. balloons filled with different sounding things), by temperature. Is it hot or cold, the freezer or the shelf? by smell, by taste, by likes and dislikes .



You can sort the same thing in different ways e.g. sort seeds and nuts, by size, type, colours, like and dislike ...sort washing into colours, sizes, who it belongs to, clean and dirty etc.

Sort keys by size, by colour, by holes in them, by who they belong to, what they open

If a child is interested in the pattern of their name, letters, numbers apply it to as many different resources to sort as you can!



Use what you have— laundry baskets on shelf rack, a stool, hanging basket meshes, coat hooks, door knobs ..

This also encourages us to play and transfer ideas all over.





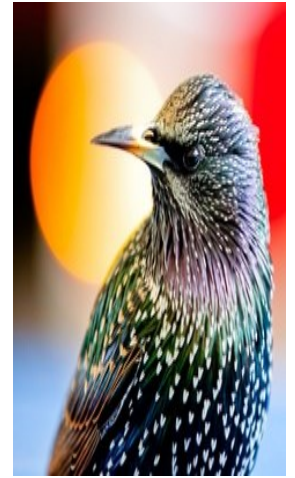
Make it visual and use as many/few as you need e.g. with cake cases, with shower rings onto coat hangers



Use shoe holders, CD holders, games trays, create your own sorters.



You can sort numbers, letters, etc household items like knives and forks. Create letter or number shapes from items from the tool box.



If you have a collection of shells, beans, rings, clothes it can be sorted!





When you sort by size vary the materials, time of year, etc. Model language in key words!



Make your own from tins with plastic lids- use rollers, lids



Shoe boxes



Cardboard tubes, boxes, tissue boxes, plastic milk bottles.. let children drop into, put in, fire at...

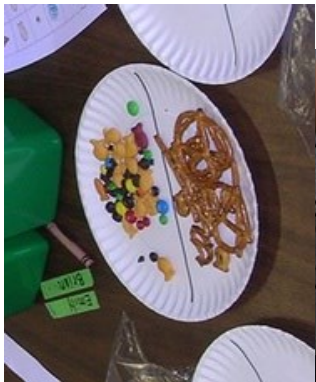




Move from practical sorting to the use of 'clear' containers.



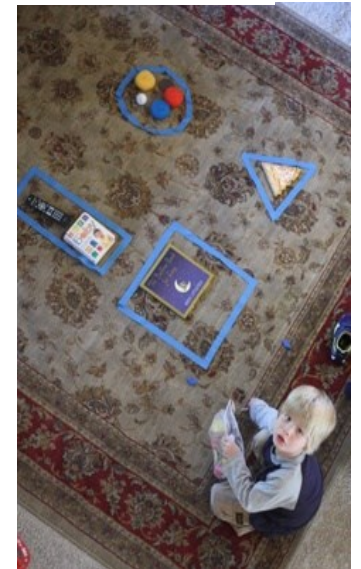
Then add lines ..



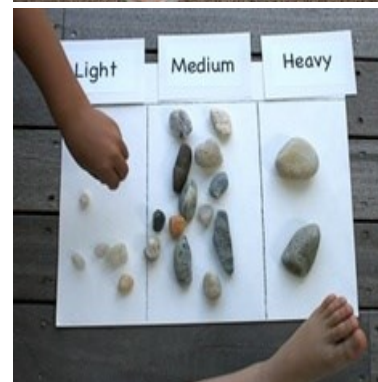
Can also sort objects with-in zip lock bags to help understand grouping.



Sort by shape (even if children don't know the names) Sort everyday items—natural and man made.

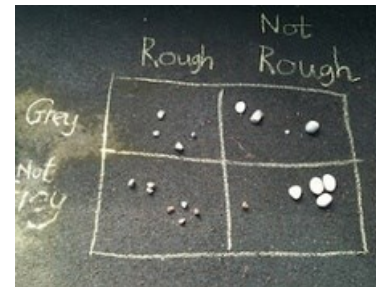
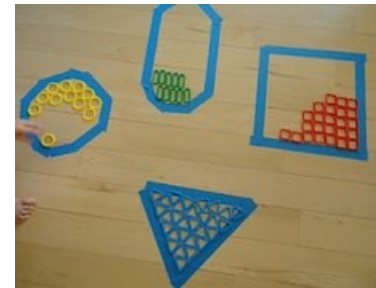


Sort by length, by weight, by how it will fit, by e.g. its bigger than my hand, longer than my finger

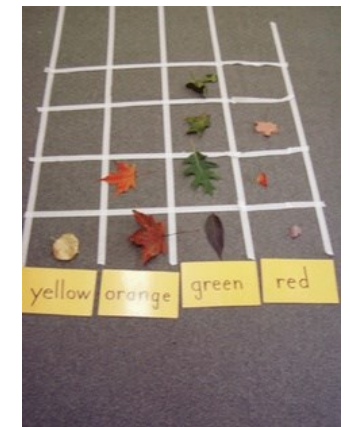




When you sort by size vary the materials—use materials to link into different times of year/ festivals—model the language of big, small .bigger



Create lines and grids (good for later graph making)—use your tiles or carpet. Make from coloured tape, chalk, inside and outside. You can also draw circles, stars and etc. to sort.



What to sort ...

What you sort depends on the child's ability, physical skills and interests.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BUY ANYTHING ... YOU CAN USE LOTS OF THINGS IF YOU USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

Start from what is real and in the child's life e.g. leaves before plastic elephants and zoo animals that they may never have seen in real life !



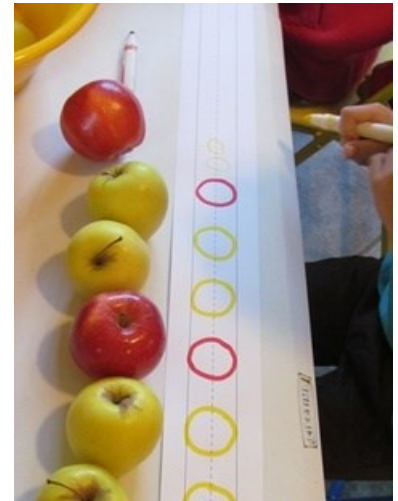
Use what you have e.g. feathers, lego, duplo, toys, hair bobbles, money, food ...



Or make your own ... painted door handles become toadstools, Styrofoam painted to sort by colour!

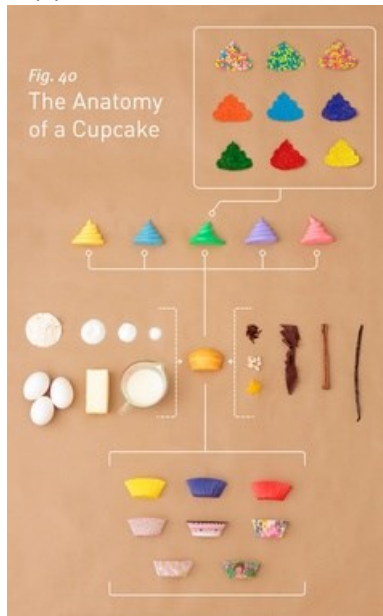
Colour sorting starts...

Lacing beads, lego and duplo, buttons, wool, pegs, dyed pasta, M&M's, coloured marshmallows, crayons, animals, sweets, food, deck of cards, laundry, pipe cleaners, ribbons, stickers, socks, shoes, carrier bags, pom poms,





Let them colour shop and sort, display their toys in different ways ..size, colour, type ...



Look at ingredients, shapes, flavours, types



The adults role

Montessori approach to sorting recommends that the child's errors are not corrected by adults, .. DON'T INTERFER!

For children to develop decision making and confidence please don't say 'it's wrong!' just model again and encourage.

As long as the child seems eager to try and isn't throwing or breaking the materials (a sign that the work is too hard or too easy) let them play. There is much to be learned from noticing and correcting your own errors. As hard as it is, try not to step in and correct, as much of the value is lost when an adult intervenes. Your role is to provide resources that make learning fun and motivational.



Some things in life are sorted and some are not ...learning should be fun !



Model sorting to children



Sort
by
size ..



Sort by material
e.g. recycling.



Ways to sort

If you wish to make your sorting more Montessori-inspired, be sure to isolate the one category by which the child is to sort. For example if the child is to sort by colour, make all of the coloured objects the same type of object (i.e. just apples not apples oranges and pears). Try to keep the sorting containers identical in size, colour and shape.

Colour sorting ... Most children love this !

