



Children Can Classify

Your child will have fun learning to recognize the differences in sounds, textures, taste and smell. By helping our child learn these skills, you are helping your child classify – an important math skill. As your child's first teacher, you are helping your child learn math skills needed to be successful in school.

INFANT:

- Let your baby touch and play with a set of fabrics with different textures. Offer her silky scarves, textured lace pieces, a soft cotton handkerchief. Play peek-a-boo behind the different fabrics. See if she tries to pull the scarf off your head! Which textures does your baby seem to like best?
- When you are at the supermarket, point out fruits and vegetables that your baby likes to eat. Soon, your baby may be pointing out the ones she recognizes all by herself!
- Visit a pet store. Look at the different animals. Talk about what you see. "The fish are swimming in water." "The birds say tweet, tweet." "The dogs are getting a hair cut!"

TODDLER:

- Help your child match sounds to things she sees. For example, when your child sees a cow, say 'Moo' and encourage her to say 'Moo.'
- Help your toddler to see differences. Look at shells from the beach and ask, "Are there any pink ones here?" or "Can you find a shell that isn't smooth?"
- Have a Cold Party. Help your child come up with other words for "cold" (freezing, icy, or chilly.) Ask your child to tell you some things that are cold (ice cream, ice, water). Start to discuss seasons: in winter we have cold weather with snow and ice. Ask: "What clothes do we wear when it is cold?" End the afternoon with a cold drink or a cold snack.

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Play guessing games: "I hear something loud and rumbly. What is it?"
- Make a game out of classifying objects. Ask your child to tell you everything that she can write with, ride on, that swims, that flies etc.
- Ask your child how many items in the living room are square or round or heavy.
- Help your preschooler to look for different kinds of footprints in the snow, sand or mud. Talk about what type of animal it might be and why, or, if human footprints, whether they're a big or a small person.