



Sorting, counting and matching

big idea #9

- You may wish to count out different amounts. It is useful with young to touch the item as they say the amount with you. There are so many things you could count. How many chairs, cushions, spoons, etc?

It's really important that young children have quality play experiences where they can sort, compare and match things. This all takes place before they do formal maths and so it will help to form a solid foundation.

Here are some activities

- You may have a collection of buttons, pegs, pens, crayons, play animals, etc. Find containers for children to sort into. It could be bowls, cake tins, etc. Look carefully at what you are sorting. For example, can you put all the same shapes together? Or could you sort by:
 - Size?
 - Material? e.g. metal, plastic, wooden, etc.
 - Colour?
 - Animal?
 - Shape
- Sorting is a great activity as the children have to use observational skills. Buttons can look very similar but are they really, when you take a closer look, do they have the same number of holes? You might have beads that could be sorted and classified. It might even be that you sort all the tins in the cupboard. Can you find all the soup tins, the tins of tomatoes, etc. and group them together?



- Play matching games. You could play snap type games. Turn all the cards over and then take it turns to turn two over. If they match, you keep them. If not, turn them back and try to remember what was on the card for next time. Dominoes is also a good game for developing matching skills.
- Matching pairs of socks, gloves or mittens together uses great comparing skills.



- Setting the table has its mathematical relevance. Each person may need a knife and fork and possibly a spoon. Do they each need a plate? Children will need to match the utensils to the amount of people who will be eating.
- One to one correspondence is where you match to specific things. For example, if you had 5 teddies you could ensure they all had one plate, one spoon, one apple and one book. If you had 5 oranges, you could also share them out equally.



- Go on a treasure hunt! Can you find all the things that are green? Are they all the same? Some will be mint green, emerald green, dark green etc.

