



This is the second in a series of Learning on the Go Tips about early math skills that help children get ready for school.

## **Learning on the Go: Early Learning Tips for Young Children**

### **Sorting and Grouping**

When children are grouping things that are similar, they are beginning to understand that numbers represent objects. Toys and everyday items can be grouped by size, color, shape, texture, taste, or whatever! Here are some ideas to help your child practice grouping:

- When your child is taking a bath, have a car wash and make piles for the dirty toy cars and the clean ones. Foam letters can be sorted by color or shape.
- Grouping games can make household chores more fun. Your child can help sort laundry into darks and lights before washing, and then piles of socks, shirts, and pants afterwards. Cleaning up toys can be made into a game by putting similar toys together in tubs. If you're okay with a little chaos, "similar" could mean the toy's color, size, or texture!
- When you are doing errands, sort the colors of food items in your grocery cart, or find all the red and blue cars that pass you on the street.
- At snack time, try tasting some healthy snacks and sorting them into sweet, salty, and sour foods.
- Matching games encourage sorting. Or make up your own game by giving your child pennies to sort into piles of shiny and dull coins, or a deck of cards to sort into red and black suits.

Learning to sort and group objects will help your young child gain math skills for success in school.

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