

Sorting

Sorting trays are a great way to teach counting as well as color and shape recognition, while also working a child's fine motor skills. They are easy to make with everyday items you can find around the house.

What you need:

A sorting tray - This can be an ice cube tray, egg carton, muffin pan or any number of small containers to sort the items into. If you don't have any of those, sections drawn on paper work just as well! Label each compartment / section with the numbers, colors or shapes you would like your child to sort items into. See the examples below.

Color Sorting



happinessishomemade.net

Number Sorting



mymerrymessylife.com

Shape Sorting



misscarriescorner.com

Sorting objects - You can use any number of small items for sorting including dried beans, buttons, Legos, beads, coins or even balled up pieces of paper.

How it works:

Place the sorting objects in a container and set it next to the sorting tray on a table or flat surface. You will need to demonstrate how to pick up the objects and place them in their corresponding compartment/ section, then assist your child until they can do it on their own. When they're finished, just dump the objects back into their container and do it again! Make sure to come back and check their progress to make sure they're sorting objects correctly. For an extra challenge, have your child use tweezers or clothespins to pick up the objects.

Get creative!

There are many different ways this activity can be done. Chose the ones that work best for you and your child.