

# Sorting Things Out

Your child has been learning about objects and their properties. Use these activities to help your child describe and sort objects.

## WHAT IS IT?

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- cardboard box
- variety of common objects which may include: cotton ball, styrofoam, marble, pieces of carpet, sponge, shell, pine cone, leaf, button, rolled up aluminum foil.

### WHAT TO DO:

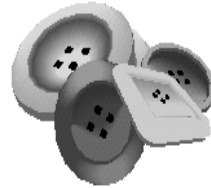
1. Cut a hole in the side of the cardboard box through which your child's arm will fit.
2. Place the assorted objects in the bottom of the box.
3. Have your child reach into the box for an object. Use the chart to record your child's description of how each object feels.
4. Allow your child to remove each object to see what it is.
5. You may wish to use this activity again substituting different objects each time.

How does it feel?	Prediction (What do you think the object is?)	Actual Object
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

## A BAG OF BUTTONS

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- variety of buttons  
(various colors, shapes, textures and sizes)
- string



### WHAT TO DO:

1. Place an assortment of buttons on a table. Encourage your child to describe the properties of various buttons, for example: color, shape, size, texture and number of holes.
2. Help your child to sort the buttons into groups according to their properties.
3. Ask your child to use the properties of the buttons to create a pattern.  
**color** : red, black, red, black  
**shape** : round, square, round, square  
**size** : big, small, big, small
4. You and your child can create a necklace or bracelet by stringing the buttons in patterns.

**SUMMARY:** The way an object feels is called its texture. Our sense of touch helps us to describe the property of texture. Objects may be sorted in a variety of ways including color, size, shape, texture, weight, etc. These characteristics are called properties.

## EXTENSIONS:

### *Further Investigations:*

- Ask children to order objects from small to large or from large to small.
- Order objects from thin to thick or thick to thin.
- Have your children help you sort your laundry.
- Glue objects in the appropriate box. Use a piece of cardboard approximately 30cm x 30cm to create a texture board like the sample.

Bumpy	Rough	Smooth
Fluffy	Hard	Soft

### *Literary Connections:*

- Freeman, Don. *Corduroy*. Viking Press, 1985.
- Kunhart, Dorothy. *Pat the Bunny*. Golden Books Publishing Co., 1990.
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. Harper Collins Juvenile Books, 1979.

### *Related Web Sites:*

<http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/CLA/LESSONS/818.html>

<http://ofcn.org/cyber.serv/academy/ace/sci/cecs/cecs153.html>