



Early Learning Sorting Box

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Solid Wood box with lid
- 3 Double-Sided Wood Panels
- 30 Wood Chips
- 1 Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Classification and sorting are critical skills which help children recognize attributes that are the same and attributes that are different. Sorting skills will help a child become successful in math, language, literacy, and science. Looking for items that are the same and items that are different is an activity that can begin at a very early age.

One of the first sorting activities we promote with very young children is the recognition of different colors. The Early Learning Sorting Box provides materials for sorting colors as a beginning skill and then gradually affords support for more advanced skills, such as recognizing the numeral symbols for numbers. Whether beginning or advanced, the Sorting Box provides engaging ways to reinforce sorting and classifying.

Use Early Learning Sorting Box to address these Core Standards and these Guidelines from the Head Start Early Learning Framework

- Child persists in tasks.
- Child shows interest in and curiosity about the world around them.

- Child uses increasingly complex language in conversation with others.
- Child recognizes pictures and some symbols, signs, or words.
- Child activity explores people and objects to understand self and objects.
- Child recognizes differences between familiar and unfamiliar people, objects, actions, or events.
- Child learns to use a variety of strategies in solving problems.
- Child uses matching and sorting of objects or people to understand similar and different characteristics.
- Child uses objects or symbols to represent something else.
- Child knows number names and the count sequence.
- Child associates a quantity with written numerals up to 5.
- Child identifies, describes, compares, and composes shapes.
- Child uses hands for exploration, play, and daily routines.
- Child demonstrates increasing control, strength, and coordination of small muscles.



Early Learning Sorting Box (continued)

Suggested Activities for Early Learning Sorting Box:

- The Panel with splashes of color is a great place to begin to work on classifying and sorting, using color as the attribute. See if the child can match the colored Chips with the matching color splash. This activity might also be used as a simple assessment of color recognition for the teacher to know if he/she needs to spend time teaching about colors.
 - Another beginning skill can be reinforced by having the child use the panels and chips with the familiar objects. You may also ask the child to recognize similar things in the environment. For example; after the child has matched the two cars, discuss the real car you use as a family.
 - After the child can rote count items (rote counting should always come before requiring a child to recognize a number symbol, etc.), have her use the counting dot Chips and Panel to practice counting individual dots. This activity could carry over to counting other objects in classroom.
 - Place one of the counting dot Chips on a table and ask the child to find that many items to place next to the chip. You can do this same activity using the color Chips and asking the child to find items that are the same color.
- When the child has a solid grasp of counting objects, use the shape sorting materials to help the child differentiate between shapes by looking for different attributes (the child should be able to count to three prior to being asked to recognize a shape with three sides).
 - Have the child use the shape Chips to find other items in the classroom that are the same shape.