

## Importance of Matching & Sorting Skills in Preschool Years

Many people think that mathematical education begins with teaching how to count.

While counting is important, there is a lot more to early mathematics than just numbers.

Matching and sorting skills are probably more important in preschool years than counting skills!

### Early Childhood Maths Skills: Matching & Sorting

If your aim is to develop early mathematical skills maybe you could try some of the activities below.

#### 1. Matching

Matching is an important early childhood maths skill that helps in classification of objects. Matching is identification of same or similar objects. Important early matching skills that a young child needs to develop are:

- Matching by Shape e.g. an orange and a ball / a cereal box and a book



- Matching by Size e.g. teaspoon, tablespoons



- Matching by Colour/pattern e.g. household items / matching socks



## **2. Sorting**

Like matching, sorting too is an important early childhood mathematical skill. From an early childhood perspective, the basic sorting skills that a child needs to develop are:

- Sorting by Colour e.g. going on a colour hunt at home. Making a collection of household items of particular colours.



- Sorting by Size e.g. gathering the small, medium and large pots from the kitchen. Sorting toys according to size from the smallest to the biggest.



- Sorting by Shape e.g. sorting building bricks, different shaped tins in the cupboard



From as early as 18 months, as a parent you could focus on introducing these concepts (matching and sorting) through simple and practical ways. You can improvise and creatively use your own surroundings to come up with puzzles and exercises which stimulate your child.