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Sam's things are all in a pile. He sorts his things into different groups before putting them away. How will Sam sort his things?

Ages: 3 to 7 years

ATOS Reading Level: 1.7

Lexile: Not Available

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Sam Sorts

How many ways can Sam sort his things? Does sorting help Sam tidy his room?

Topics: classification, counting, sorting

Math Connections: As Sam tidies his room, he sorts his things into groups of like objects. Like objects are a group of objects that have something in common: for example, the same color, pattern, size, or use. He finds different ways to sort his things and realizes that many things fit into more than one category. For example, the toy zebra is both an animal and something that is black and white.

Sorting and classifying objects is related to mathematical reasoning that children will use later in algebra and higher mathematics. One of the steps in solving an equation involves identifying and gathering *like terms.* Being able to identify an object as belonging to more than one group, based on its characteristics, fosters flexibility in a child's thinking and reasoning. To develop this flexibility, encourage your child to think of three or four different ways to sort the same group of objects. Make it a game to see if you can tell how the objects were sorted each time.

The reasoning skill of classifying and sorting objects is also used in science. Scientists classify and sort to make sense of the world. Scientists use characteristics and observable features to group things (animals, rocks, plants, etc.) to help them see how they are related to each other and how they are different.

While reading this story, practice counting with your child by pointing to each object. In the story there are several places where your child can practice counting to tell how many objects are in a group.

Extension Questions:

1. How might sorting a pile of objects help to tidy up a room?
2. Think of a collection of things like shells, rocks, or leaves. How would you sort them so they could be displayed for others to enjoy?
3. On pages 26 and 27, where the text reads, "All sorted. How many categories? How many things?", how did Sam sort his things into those groups? How are the things in each group alike? Which characteristic do the objects in each category share?
4. What different ways could a group of random animals be sorted? Which characteristic(s) would you use to sort the animals? Why did you choose that characteristic?

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	count, few, four, one, pair, round, three, too many, two
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	attribute, characteristic, classification, like, similar
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	categories, snarling

Early Math Project Resources:
Sort it! (English)
Sort Cards

Online Resources:
The Benefits of Sorting and related activities

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Preschool/ TK	**Preschool Learning Foundations** https://bit.ly/34vEeN3
Preschool/ TK	**Algebra and Functions 1.1** Sort and classify objects by one or more attributes, into two or more groups, with increasing accuracy.
Grades K-3	**California Common Core State Math Standards K-12** https://bit.ly/31No7bP
Kindergarten	**Measurement and Data K.MD.1, K.MD.2** Describe and compare measurable attributes. **K.MD.3** Classify and count the number of objects in each category.
Grade 1	**Measurement and Data 1.MD.4** Organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories; ask and answer questions about the Toal number of data points, how many in each category, and how many more or less are in one category than in another.

Spanish Title: Not available

Related Books: *Three Little Firefighters* by Stuart J. Murphy; *Hannah's Collections* by Marthe Jocelyn; *Sort it Out!* by Barbara Mariconda

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