READY, SET, KINDERGARTEN! Sorting

Why is it important? Sorting is an important early math skill. It's a process that your child should be learning naturally, but it might help to give them a nudge. As with all math concepts (sorting, patterns, sequencing, etc.) it's best learned through everyday practice. When children see early math skills in their everyday lives, it helps them gain a more complete understanding of them, leading to better math comprehension in school.

Everyday Tips: Have your child tell you how to sort the items in your grocery cart by whether they're fresh or canned, breakfast food or dinner food, etc. Have them sort their toys by hard and soft, small and large, etc. Can your child separate and sort a bag of colored pasta while you're cooking dinner?

Activity 1: Give your child a bunch of random objects to sort. Maybe you have a junk drawer that's out of hand- have them sort those items so you can organize them!

Activity 2: Ask your child to sort their toys by color, size, etc. Sorting Lego by color is one of the most popular "chores" for children to do at the library!



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Activity 3: The next step up from sorting is classifying. Write the names of some of your child's friends and family members on little pieces of paper, then draw a line on a big piece of paper to divide it in half. Can your child sort the people they know by grownup/kid? What about long hair/short hair? This is a little harder of a concept as it's not as simple as "put the red things together" but it's a great early math and science exercise. Plus, by looking at the names of our loved ones, we're promoting literacy!

