



# Categorizing

*How many groups can you make?*

Children will categorize and sort a variety of objects in to many different groups to help them build connections of the world around them.

## Materials

A variety of plastic animals

## Try This!

Provide children with a variety of plastic animals

Let children decide how they would like to sort the animals, and then let them start making groups.

## Science Process Skills

- Categorizing
- Observations
- Exploration

## Classroom Implementation

While children are exploring you can model open-ended questions by asking:

- What types of groups are you making?
- What differences do you notice? What is the same?
- Could we make another group?
- What other things in this room could we sort?



Depending on the age of the children, how it is presented will look different. This is a very open ended, exploration activity. Keeping that in mind, here are some suggestions:

- Challenge children to first create 1 category that unites all animals, followed by 2, 3, and 4 different categories.
- Place the animals in a sensory area to explore and participate in dramatic play

- Place the animals in different containers to make different noisemakers and maybe even try to sort the noise makers by type of animal that children predict are inside.

### **Credits and rights**

Developed by the Sciencenter for the Collaborative for Early Science Learning.

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