

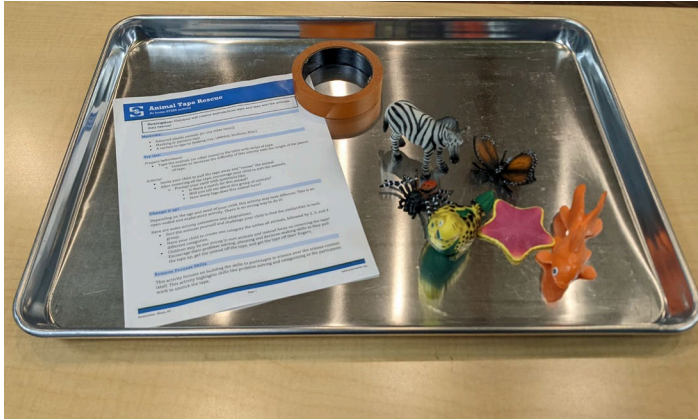


# Animal Tape Rescue

At home STEM activity

**Description:** Children rescue animals from tape and then sort the animals they rescue!

## Materials:



- Assorted plastic animals (or any other items)
- Masking or painters tape
- A surface to tape to (baking tray, tabletop, linoleum floor)

## Try this:

### Prepare beforehand:

- Tape the animals (or other items) to the table with strips of tape.
  - Increase or decrease the difficulty of this activity with the length of the pieces of tape.



### Activity:

- Invite your child to pull the tape away and “rescue” the animal
- After removing all the tape, encourage your child to sort the animals,
  - Prompt your child with questions like:
    - Is there a match for this animal?
    - Will you tell me about this group of animals?
    - How many legs on this animal?



### Change it up!

Depending on the age and need of your child, this activity may look different. This is an open-ended and exploratory activity. There is no wrong way to do it!

Here are some activity extensions and adaptations:

- Sort the animals yourself and challenge your child to find the similarities in each group.
- Have your child to create one category the unites all animals, followed by 2, 3, and 4 different categories.
- Children may be too young to sort animals and instead focus on removing the tape! Encourage their problem solving, planning and decision-making skills as they pull the tape up, get the animal off the tape, and get the tape off their fingers.

### Science Process Skills

This activity focuses on building the skills to participate in science over the science content itself. This activity highlights skills like problem solving and categorizing as the participants work to unstuck the tape.

Problem solving is a skill that everyone relies on in their day-to-day life. When building and experimenting, things rarely go perfectly and scientists and engineers need to figure out the problem and how to work around it. Encouraging children to think about what went wrong and where we can try to fix things is a great way to grow problem-solving skills. In

this activity, give your child time to think through their ideas and test their solutions. Support your child as they need it using tools, tabs on the tape, or demonstrations.

Sorting and grouping objects is a way of organizing our thinking. When we categorize, we separate and put things together to understand how they relate to each other. This may look like ranking items or splitting them into groups. This helps children recognize patterns and number sets, and reinforces math skills. When guiding children through this activity, encourage them to count the animals as they rescue them.

This activity exists in many versions. This adaptation was inspired by Categorizing: Animal Sorting from the Collaborative for Early Science Learning copyright 2021, Sciencenter, Ithaca NY.  
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