In our everyday lives, we often arrange objects, ideas, and events into convenient groups or categories. Early experiences in sorting items into groups help young learners to better observe how things are alike and different; these are essential early literacy and math skills. It is critical to allow children to organize items by their own rules, with adults expanding on their knowledge through the use of higher order questions and focused vocabulary. Encouraging children to talk about how they sort things promotes math talk (Carlyle & Mercado, 2012).  

(El 12.1 Sorting & Classifying; 5.3 Vocabulary)

### Sorting Activities

Watch for children sorting by color, size, and shape
- Create a collage by sorting similar objects together
- Have various baskets to sort by color, size, and shape

### Classifying Activities

Organize and describe by attribute. For example, have children group:
- insects/non insects
- items that roll/do not roll

Use Vocabulary to Describe Data:
- more, fewer, same, different, compare, similar

References: