



Talking about the Math around Us



Laundry Love

Laundry time is math time! Together with your child, sort clean laundry into a pile for each family member. Talk about and compare sizes to create each pile. As you do, your child will learn about similarities, differences, and measurement.

Child care providers and librarians: See Variations.

Math: Sorting, measurement (small, medium, large)

What you need

Clean laundry that is ready to sort.

Directions

Invite your child to help sort laundry and talk about the process:

Making Laundry Piles

Start a laundry pile for each family member. Explain the piles:

"Let's put Ana's **small** clothes in the pile on the **left**."

"We'll put your **medium** size clothes in this **middle** pile."

"My **big** clothes go in the pile on the **right**."

Sorting Clothing

Engage your child in helping you sort.

"How do you know where to put that **large** red shirt?"

"Hold that T-shirt up to you to see if it is your **size**."

"Here's a **small** pink sock. Let's see if we can find one that is the same."

Putting Clothes Away

Talk through where your child's clothes are stored. Then sort some more. (Optional)

"Let's put your socks and underwear together because they go in the **top** drawer."

"Find something that goes in the **middle** drawer."

"What can we put in the **bottom** drawer?"

Variations

Sort by design. Sort into solids, stripes, and other patterns.

Sort socks. Have your child find all the pairs. Make sure your child checks the color and the size before pairing up socks.

Let children choose. Let children decide how to sort the laundry. Ask them to tell you how they are sorting.

For child care providers: Try this activity with doll clothing or with clothing in the dress-up area. Have children sort by size or type of clothing.

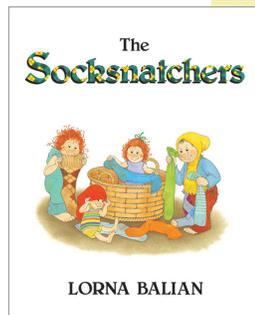
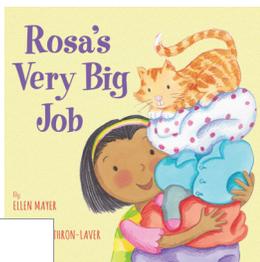
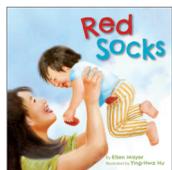
For librarians: Have children sort books by type of image on the cover (e.g., people, animals, both, or none). Then, encourage them to find a few books to check out and read at home.

Talk Math!

Everyday math words are in bold italics.

Avoid questions with a right answer. Instead, ask children to explain their ideas.

Pair this activity with these Star Bright Books titles to begin talking about the math around you!



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