

ACTIVITY 2

Museum Walk: Sorting Buttons

**INTENT:**

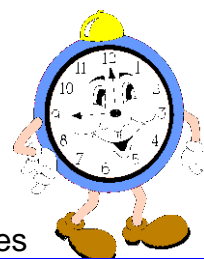
Practice sorting while considering the components of the sorting process.

OUTCOME:

Participants increase their understanding of the components of sorting.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Assortment of buttons for each table:
- Blank 3 x 5 cards
- Handout 3: Ways to Engage Preschool Children in Conversations about Sorting and Classifying



TIME: 10 minutes

PROCESS:

1. Show participants the assortment of buttons.
2. First: Participants sort their buttons with their table group. (Remind participants to be creative with the categories they make.) Groups then write down the attributes with which they categorized their buttons, placing this attribute list in the SECRET envelope.
3. Second: Trainers ring a bell and invite participants to begin the Museum Walk, and to start guessing how other groups categorized their buttons.
4. Once a group thinks they have determined what attributes are used to categorize the buttons at a given table, they are to write their best guess on a 3 x 5 card, placing the card face down on the table.
5. Trainers may ring the bell to rotate tables as many times as necessary and time permits.
6. When ready, ask participants to return to their original table. At a designated sound, ask everyone to turn over the 3 x 5 cards that were left on their tables.
7. Allow time for table groups to read through the guesses to see what others thought.
8. Debrief:
 - How many guesses were right? How many were wrong? How many made sense but did not match the original categories?
 - As a group we are going to make an attribute list together. Start yelling out attributes that were listed your 3 x 5 cards.
 - Trainer stands at the front, writing down the attributes on chart paper as participants yell them out.
 - The result is a list of attributes to add to throughout the day.

**SUMMARY:**

While working in groups, participants increase their understanding of the components of sorting.