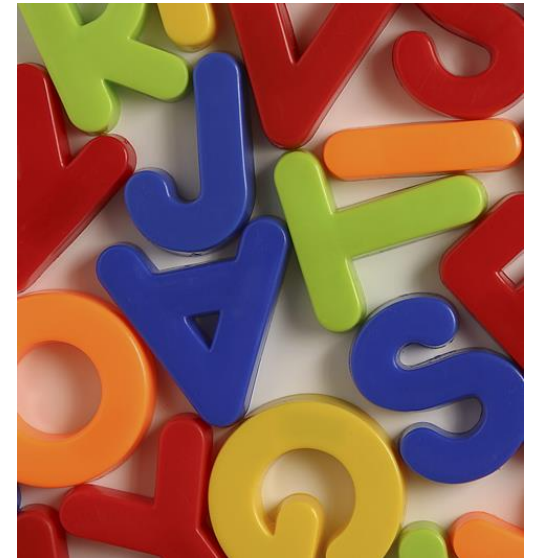
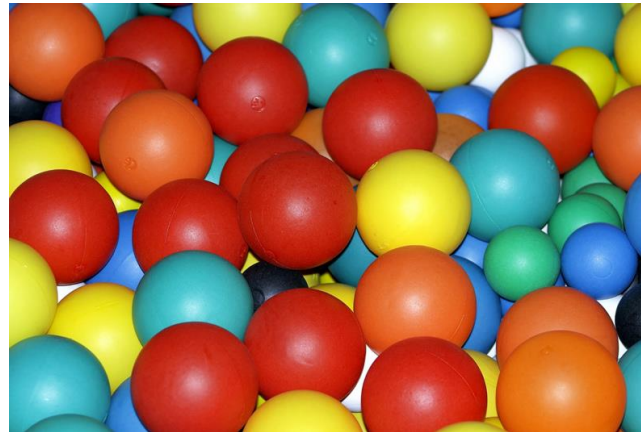


Classifying and Sorting with Young Children

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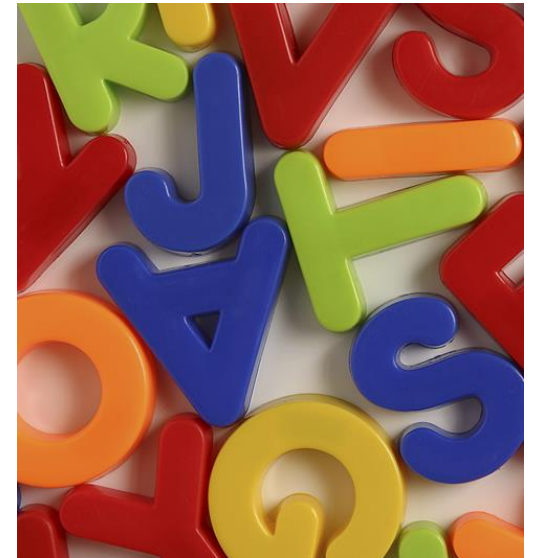
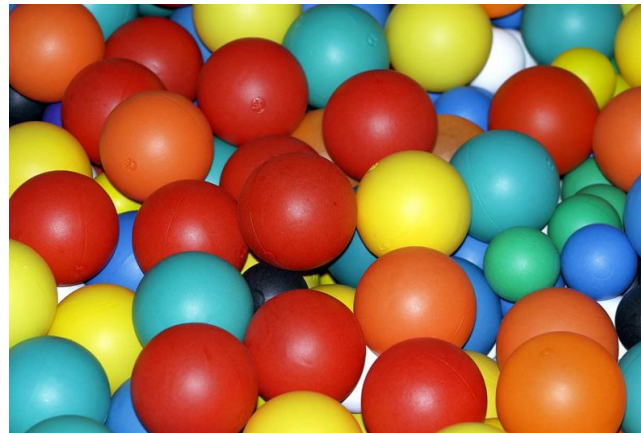
Understanding Same and Different

Consider these objects:



Understanding Same and Different

These are completely different objects but when we start to consider their similarities we can begin the process of classifying or sorting them into groups.



Understanding Same and Different



These blocks have letters, pictures, numbers, and are colorful.

They have smooth surfaces.

You can stack them.

They are plastic.

Understanding Same and Different



These balls are colorful.

They are round.

They are plastic.

They have a smooth surface.

Understanding Same and Different



These letters are shaped differently.

They are colorful.

They have a smooth surface.

They are plastic.

They are shaped like letters.

Classifying these Items

When we think about the characteristics of each item we begin to understand that they have quite a lot in common. They are all plastic, very colorful, and have smooth surfaces. Some of the items even have something to do with letters. Others have flat sides. Some have round parts.



Sorting these Items



Now that we recognize that there are similar attributes between these items, we can put them into groups with other like items. All of the same colored balls, letters, and blocks go together. All of the objects with an “A” on them go together. All of the small objects go together, etc.

Supporting These Skills



- Give children opportunities to practice their classifying and sorting skills.
- Provide new and possibly foreign objects to classify and sort.
- Integrate classifying with all subjects.
- Ask questions to facilitate their classifying and sorting practice.
- Allow them the freedom to develop their own classification rules.