Button Sort

Buttons come in different shapes and sizes. Some have one hole; others have two or four holes. Buttons can be made out of metal, horn, wood, plastic, or fabric. They can be shiny, sparkly, fancy, or plain.

Goal: Sort buttons into similar groups.

You will need:
• An assortment of buttons
• A muffin tin
• A partner or partners

What to do:
• Decide how you will sort the buttons, perhaps by size, shape, number of holes, or material.
• Arrange the buttons so that each group has something in common.
• When you are done, explain to a partner how your buttons are grouped or ask them to guess how you grouped the buttons.

To think about:
Which button or buttons could have belonged to more than three groups?

Something to try with a partner or partners:
• Place a group of buttons into a paper bag.
• Each person selects one button without looking.
• Compare the buttons that were chosen.
• Talk about how the buttons are alike and how are they different.

Inspired by the book *The Button Box* by Margarette Reid