

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.

