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Find many ways to sort and count buttons in Grandma's button box. Discover the different materials buttons are made of and their many uses. The boy in this story describes a variety of buttons that he sorts, counts, and compares.

Ages: 3 to 6 years**Interest Level:**

PreK-1st grade

Reading Level: 2,4**Lexile:** N/A**ISBN:** 978-0140554953**Copyright:** 1990**Genre:** Fiction**Classification:** Picture Story

The Button Box

How can you sort Grandma's button box?

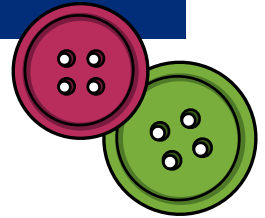
Topics: Classification, Comparison, Counting

Math Connections: Many young children enjoy creating a special collection of objects—baseball cards, coins, or seashells, for example. Sorting is an important math skill. Sorting prepares children to recognize common characteristics, a skill that is necessary in algebra. In the book, *The Button Box*, a child counts and sorts his grandmother's buttons according to common attributes. Talk with your child about collections. Talk about collections that exist in kitchens, for example, silverware in a drawer, food on a shelf, or pots and pans in a cupboard. How many items are in each group? How can you sort the objects according to a common characteristic? For example, food that comes in a can, in a glass jar, or in a cardboard box. Ask your child if they would like to start a collection of their own. Pebbles and rocks or leaves are interesting objects to collect and can be gathered on walks. Help your child preserve their collection by providing a box or container for the objects. As your child's collection grows, discuss the new additions and continue to look for ways to sort the items by their characteristics.

Extension Questions:

1. What types of buttons does the boy describe?
2. How did he sort the buttons?
3. Which buttons look alike? Which buttons are different?
4. How do you know two buttons are alike?
5. What are some words you could use to describe the buttons that you have seen?
6. If a person has six buttons and each button has two holes, how many holes do the six buttons have all together?

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	alike, big, first, flat, four, little, new, next, old, pattern, round, sort, ten, thick, thin, two
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	category, circle, comparison, different, material, pattern, same, shape, similar, size, sort, sphere, symmetry, triangle
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	antlers, china dishes, clickety, corduroy, furnaces, jewels, marchers, overalls, pearly, pretend, puppets, rich, satin, shanks, sparkly, tappety, uniforms, velvet, whirl

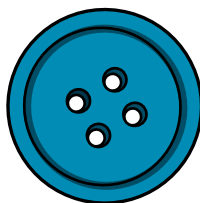


Early Math Project Resources: For additional activities on sorting, see Seed Sorting, Button Sorting, and Sock Sorting activities on the Early Math Project Web site: www.EarlyMathCA.org

Button Sorting:

English: <https://bit.ly/2G6yuPQ>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/2SAdFNP>



Seed sorting:

English: <https://bit.ly/2KLjdSn>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/2KHCirK>

Sock sorting:

English: <https://bit.ly/2QDFMhX>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/2G6lhVR>



Suggested Activities:

1. Find three different ways to sort the buttons.
2. Gather a group of buttons and ask your child to sort the buttons. After your child sorts them, guess how the buttons were sorted or have your child explain how he or she sorted the buttons.
3. Sort the collection of buttons. Ask the child to figure out and explain how he or she thinks the buttons were sorted



Please note buttons can pose a choking hazard. These activities are not intended for children under the age of three.

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	Classification The developing ability to group, sort, categorize, connect, and have expectations of objects and people according to their attributes.
Preschool/ TK	Algebra and Functions 1.0: Children begin to sort and classify objects in their everyday environment. Number Sense 1.0: Children begin to understand numbers and quantities in their everyday environment.
Kindergarten	Counting and Cardinality: K.CC.4, K.CC.5; Count to tell the number of objects Measurement and Data: K.MD.3 Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.

Spanish Title: La caja de los botones

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Related Books: *Sorting* by Henry Pluckrose and *A Pair of Socks* by Stuart J. Murphy

Find this book at your local library: https://www.worldcat.org/title/button-box/oclc/33394677&referer=brief_results

