

Activity 2 – Sorting objects by criteria

Sorting toys by the material they are made from

What to do

- Set up the challenge – can we find out how which materials are most commonly used in toys?
- Gather together some toys and discuss the type of materials they are made from (*wood, plastic, metal, fabric, etc.*)
- Encourage your child to sort them by material. If you come across an object which is made of more than one, encourage your child to think of a solution (i.e. *have a 'mixed' group*).
- Check each group to see that all the items fit the criteria and count them. Compare the numbers to answer the question.

What you need

Toys of different materials, e.g. plastic ball, metal car, cuddly toy, wooden train
Paper and a pencil



Extension

Make a record of your findings by writing each material and writing the number next to it. Find out which material is most and least common by comparing the number in each group. Think about why some materials are used more for toys. Sing along with Maddie Moate's materials songs:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ys-IR2KGeoY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqKrGbPORfs>

Questions to ask

How can we tell which materials these toys are made from?
How can we group the toys to help us find out which material is most common?
What materials make good toys? What materials do we not usually make toys from? Why?