

Collections Teach Math!



*Remember playing with collections of things when you were younger?
Did you line them up and sort them into groups?
Remember figuring out how to divide them with a friend?*

These are all powerful early math experiences for young children. As children match, sort, and order things in different ways they are learning fundamental concepts of mathematics and algebra through play and hands-on experience. Here's some of what they learn:

Matching	Noticing how things are the same
Classifying	Grouping things by similarities (remember set theory?)
Sequencing	Putting things in order
Nesting	Realizing that things are in many groups at the same time

Collections that kids love

Matchbox cars
Rocks
Marbles
Playing cards
Pots and pans
Food storage containers
Pine cones
Shells
Little people
Jewelry
Buttons
Coins
Canned food
Stuffed Animals

**Be sure to protect your child from choking by choosing collections that are age appropriate.

If you want to give your child some of the best early math experiences around, get out the collections you have tucked away and look at the collections already around you with new "math" eyes.

Ask your kids questions like:

*Can you find one that's exactly the same?
Which ones go together?
Can you make them go together in a different way?
Can we put them in order? A different order?
What group is this one in?
Could it be in this group too?*

Story books about collections

Hannah's Collections by Jocelyn Marthe
Billy's Button by William Accorsi
Button Box by Margarete Reid