

Ice Cube Tray Sorting

Primary Objectives

13. Uses classification skills

Why It's Important

When you offer a variety of items for your child to manipulate, he will begin to see similarities among items and may begin to sort them based on their characteristics.

Materials

Small objects that can fit in an ice cube tray; ice cube trays

What You Do

1. Place the collection of small objects and the ice cube tray on a table.
2. Invite your child to play with you at the table. Explain that he may put the small objects in the ice cube trays. Give him time to sort and arrange the items however he chooses.
3. After your child has had time to explore freely, encourage him to sort the objects by color or shape. It may help if you present objects that are similar, such as blue objects and red objects.
4. Have your child place one or two objects into each cube, keeping those with the same characteristics in one row. *I see that you made one row of all green things and one row of all red things.*
5. Allow your child to continue for as long as he is interested. Store the trays and small objects where your child can access them later if he chooses.