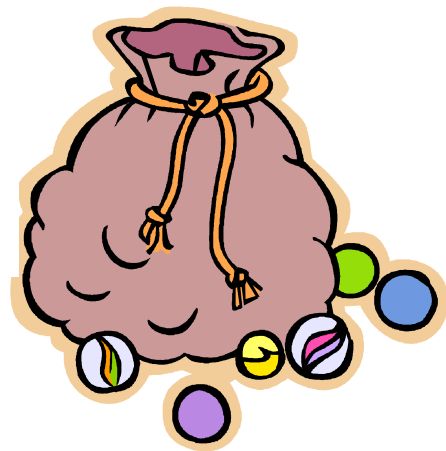


# Collections Teach Math

Do you remember playing with collections of things when you were younger? Did you line them up and sort them into groups? Did you divide them with a friend? These are all powerful early math experiences for young children. As children match, sort, and order things they are learning fundamental concepts of arithmetic and algebra in the most effective way possible: through play and hands-on experience.

After your child has had lots of opportunities to play with collections in whatever ways they like, you can ask questions like these:

- Can you find one that's exactly the same?
- Let's put them in order. Where is the biggest?
- What group is this one in? Can it be in another group too?



## Collections for Kids:

Little cars, people, animals  
Marbles  
Coins  
Jewelry  
Rocks  
Buttons  
Stuffed Animals  
Sea Shells

\*\*Be sure to protect your child from choking by choosing collections that are age-appropriate and supervising your child's play.

## Collections Teach:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Matching</b>    | Noticing how things are the same                       |
| <b>Classifying</b> | Grouping things that are similar                       |
| <b>Sequencing</b>  | Putting things in order                                |
| <b>Nesting</b>     | Pointing out that things can be in more than one group |

## More Resources:

[www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath](http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath)