

Learning Focus—Display and Interpret Data

This module gives your child experiences with sorting objects into groups and describing their sorting, and with informally collecting, representing, and describing data.

Sort objects by one attribute into groups and describe the sorting

Children learn to sort and classify sounds, objects, and people during infancy. As they grow older, children notice more detailed common attributes or qualities of an object, like shape, size, color, mass, sound, taste, texture, type of material, and an object's function or use.



When buying groceries, ask your child to place different kinds of items in different parts of the cart, like fruit in the front and vegetables in the back. Once home, ask your child to sort food items by their suitability for the refrigerator, freezer, or cupboard or pantry. Laundry provides many opportunities for sorting, by size, type, or by the person who wears the clothes.

Collect, represent, and describe data informally

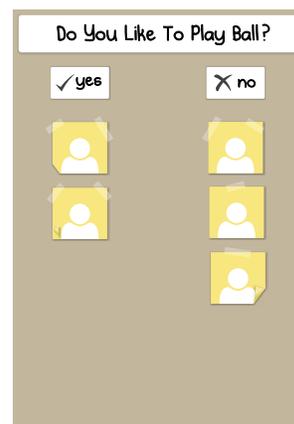
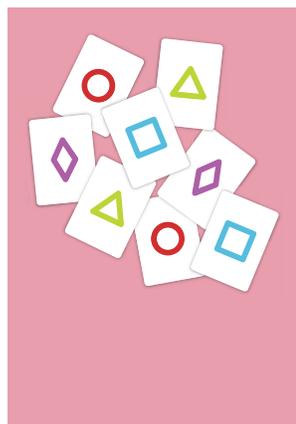
Data collection connects with and relies on early numeracy skills. At this age, data is informal, with simple yes/no questions about topics of interest (e.g. do you have a pet at home?). Collecting data is a great way for children to start organizing their thoughts and develop decision making.

Simple items like stamps, sticky notes, and stickers represent the children's decisions. Data is interpreted through informal discussions that focus on describing what representations show (e.g. if there are more stickers in the yes space, then more children have a pet at home than those who do not).



Over the course of a few days, draw pictures of the weather and talk about how many were sunny, cloudy, or rainy.

Over the course of a few days, record any meals shared by the family. Then, at the end of the week, ask everyone to vote on their favorite meal and discuss the results.

**Please help by sending the following:**

- Two objects from home, such as a toy and a picture, a sock and a shoe, a hat and a baseball, and so on
- Picture of your child with his/her birth month written on the back