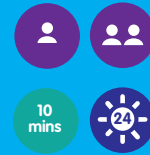


Boo Cat sorts things out



This exercise helps children learn how to sort words into different categories. This is a crucial part of building an effective mental filing system, helping children learn and remember words and their meanings

How to do it

Create a set of picture cards from Sheets A and B. Tell the following story:

Boo Cat has been out shopping.

He has a shopping bag full of food and clothes. He doesn't know where to put them.

Let's help him sort out the shopping into things we eat (food) and things we wear (clothes). The food needs to go in the kitchen cupboard. The clothes need to go into the wardrobe.

Next...

Lay out the cards and ask your child to sort them. Prompt if necessary. 'Which things do we wear? Which do we eat?'

Then...

Use the exercise as an opportunity to chat about the words you're using.

- 'That's right, it's an orange. An orange is food. It's something we eat. Yummy!' (simple)
- 'Gloves! When might I wear these?' (more complex)

You can play this game many, many times. Children love, and benefit from, repetition.

Variations

- Use real items instead of pictures
 - Make your own set of cards using photos or clip art
 - Use different objects to sort or
- sort in different ways - here are some ideas:
- By weight (heavy/light)
 - By colour (yellow/blue)
 - By feature (toys with wheels/toys without wheels)
 - By appearance (smooth, rough)

Day to day

Have fun putting your shopping away, like in the photo - Oranges go in the fruit bowl ... and pasta? Ask your child to explain why...

Or how about your child tidying up their room as a sorting game? 'Put the dolls in the yellow box, and the clothes in the drawer.'



'I like this game - it helps me to know which words go together'