

1. Large or Small Group – Fluency Practice, Count to 3 Chant

Teach the words and movements in the chant line by line. In the last repetition of the chant, demonstrate counting and touching 3 dots on the provided strip.

When children are comfortable with the chant, provide each child with a 3 dot strip to play “1, 2, 3, pass...” Students use the same index finger to move from dot to dot. Replace the last verse of the chant with “1, 2, 3, pass those dots to me!”

1 (touch the first dot), 2 (touch the second dot), 3 (touch the third dot), pass those dots to me! (All pass their strips to the person to their right.) Students repeat until teacher gives a signal to stop.

Be sure that students point to each dot individually, rather than slide. This game is inspired by the Ghanaian rock-passing game Obwisana.

Count to 3 Chant

1, 2, 3 Count with me.
1, 2, 3 Tap with me.
1, 2, 3 Clap with me.
1, 2, 3 Jump with me.
1, 2, 3 Count with me.

2. Small Group - Concept Review (making a group)

Materials: Empty crayon box, basket containing crayons (1 crayon per student) and other assorted objects (e.g., counters, board books, blocks)

In a group of 4-6 children, place the empty crayon box in the middle of the circle. Tell students that you want to fill the box with crayons. Pass the basket around the circle and invite each student to help you make a group of crayons by picking one crayon and putting it in the box. When the group is finished, ask them what they have made. Ask them to tell their partner what they have made. Congratulate them on making a group of crayons!

Note: This activity prepares students for sorting objects into two groups by reviewing how to create a group of objects that match. They will use this grouping activity to discuss rules for making groups later.

3. Small Group – Concept Introduction (sorting into 2 groups)

Materials: Baggie with a variety of crayons and markers (1 crayon or marker per student), 2 clear plastic dishes (or a reasonable alternative, just to keep markers and crayons from rolling)

In a group of 4-6 children, show a bag of markers and crayons. Say, “I need some more help. I want to color with markers, and my friend wants to color with crayons. What can we do?” Guide students to say, “We can make two groups.”

Place the sorting mats on the rug. Have students come forward to add a marker or crayon to the appropriate group. Note that each child is “helping to make the crayon (or marker) group.” Once all the items are sorted, tell students, “Look, we sorted the items into two groups!” Ask students, “How are the two groups the same or different?”



4. Small Group - Additional Practice

Materials: Per pair of students: baggies containing 2 groups of 2 different kinds of objects with 1 object that is not part of either group (e.g., 3 sweetgum burr balls, 5 leaves, and 1 flower; 2 ducks, 4 horses, and 1 cow), 2 sorting mats (September lesson template)

Working with a group of no more than 6 children, assign each child a partner. Send pairs to tables to sort the objects in their bags into two given groups (by color, shape, etc.). Guide partners to ask and answer questions about their groups. For example, “What groups did you make?” or “How are the two groups the same? How are they different?” or “How did you sort the objects?”



Listen for misconceptions or misunderstandings that can be addressed as you rotate between the pairs. Use any combination of the questions below to help students express ideas, make connections, and use new vocabulary (sort).

- How did you sort things today?
- Tell us how one of your groups was the same. Tell us how your two groups were the same or different.
- Can you think of any places in our classroom where we sort things?

5. Learning Center – Practice through Play

Materials: White vinyl tablecloth (from dollar store), colored permanent markers, variety of different colored objects for sorting

Children will enjoy sorting items by color with this giant sorting mat. Sit a small group of students in a circle around the mat and pass around a basket full of different colored items. Each child takes an item from the basket and places it on the appropriate circle.

