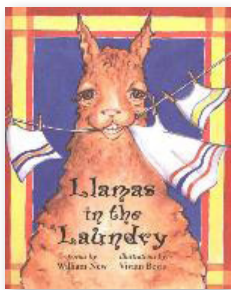


Sort and separate

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Start with a big pile of laundry, along with some baskets or a space on the floor for sorting.
- ❖ Explain that you are going to play a sorting game together.
- ❖ Help your child or children sort the laundry into piles based on colours.
- ❖ Talk about what you are thinking as you decide where each piece of laundry should go.
- ❖ Talk about the different materials and how they look and feel.

A good read-together book



Llamas in the Laundry by William New

You will need a big pile of laundry.

This activity will help your child learn words for colours, patterns and textures, and how to sort things into groups.



Hints for success

- ❖ Start with solid colours first. Name the colours as you sort.
- ❖ Remember that getting the laundry done is only one of your goals. You are also helping your child learn about colours, patterns and textures of clothes.

This dress is made of thin fabric. Let's put it in the delicate load.

Can you find all the blue socks and put them together?

Ways to say it

More ideas for Sort and separate

Try this way

- ❖ Teach your child some words used for sorting laundry, e.g. "light load," "dark load," "delicate fabric," "heavy material," etc.
- ❖ Show your child how to combine piles sorted by colour to create light or dark piles, e.g. "We need to make a bigger pile to save water. Let's put the blue and green piles together because they are both dark."
- ❖ Talk about different materials and how they feel, e.g. "This shirt is nylon. Feel how slick and smooth it is."
- ❖ With older children (ages 4-5), use more descriptive words, e.g. "sky blue shirt," "velour jacket," etc.
- ❖ Talk about how to sort clothes that are multi-coloured and/or have patterns, e.g. "I'm going to put the blue and white shirt in the blue pile, because it has more blue than white."

Craft activity

Cut out pictures of clothing from a catalogue or newspaper. Draw several ovals on a piece of paper for sorting the pictures. Invite your child to sort the pictures into piles of laundry and glue them onto the paper.

Counting activity

As you put a pile of laundry into the washing machine, count how many items you have, e.g. "How many socks are going into this load?"

Book links

First Colours by Jo Litchfield

Whose Clothes Are Those? by Shaheen Bilgrami



Sorting Laundry

Sorting laundry one by one,
Sorting laundry 'til it's done.
Sorting laundry two by two,
That one's red and this one's blue.
Sorting laundry three by three,
Look at the grass stain on that knee!
Sorting laundry four by four,
Into the basket by the door.
Sorting laundry five by five,
Into the piles we're going to dive.
Sorting laundry six by six,
The washing machine whirs and clicks.

Judith Scott