

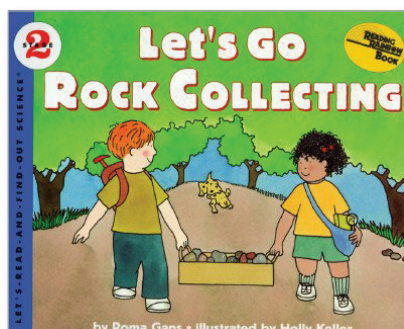
Sorting stones

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Look around for interesting stones. Pick up some stones and look at them carefully.
- ❖ Talk about the stones one by one. Use words that say how they look and feel.
- ❖ Sort the stones into groups, e.g., big, medium, small.
- ❖ Make patterns with the stones, e.g., by putting the stones in a row (big, medium, small, big, medium, small).



A good read-together book



Let's Go Rock Collecting by Roma Gans

Hints for success

- ❖ Start by talking about one stone that you like and say why.
- ❖ Invite the child to do the same.
- ❖ Choose one way to sort at a time (e.g., by shape, or size or colour).

Where shall we put this stone? In the brown group or the white group?

I like my stone because it is shiny. What do you like about your stone?

Ways to say it

You will need some interesting stones and a flat place to sort them.

This activity is good for learning new words, making groups and patterns and talking about how things are the same or different.

More ideas for Sorting stones

Try this way

- ❖ Put the stones in water. Notice how they change when they are wet.
- ❖ Look for stones with different shapes and textures. Sort them by how they feel.
- ❖ Make groups of stones and count them, e.g., "Can you make a group of three small stones? How about five big ones?"
- ❖ Start a collection of favourite stones. Talk about why you like each of your favourite stones.

Talking and writing

Make up poems together about your favourite stones. Follow an easy pattern, describing size, shape, colour, how it feels or what makes it special.

Art

Draw and colour pictures of your favourite stones. Make a display of favourite stones.

Book links

Rocks and Minerals by Jan Brennan
Stone Soup adapted by Marcia Brown
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig
Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor



Stones

I like my favourite stone.
 It is not too big.
 It is shaped like an egg.
 It is mostly brown.
 It feels rough.
 And what makes it special is that
 it has sparkles in it.
 I like my favourite stone.

Anonymous

Safety tip

Very young children might put small stones in their mouths. Keep an eye on your child.