

Real-World Sorting Walk

KIDS HANDS-ON

RUN AT 12:40

30 MIN

The point

Anything can be sorted — and the house is already full of sorting somebody chose on purpose. Once you see it, you can't stop seeing it.

Materials

- A basket or bag per child
- The yard/garden + the kitchen
- Muffin tins / sorting bowls • blank label cards + marker
- Optional: a laundry basket of clean unsorted laundry

Steps

- 1 **Collect:** 10 minutes outdoors — each child gathers their **best 4–5 finds** (leaves, pebbles, seed pods, sticks, feathers).
- 2 Swing through the kitchen for a few utensils and pantry items; **pool everything:** 15–20 items.
- 3 **The group argues out a scheme** — don't hand them one (nature/kitchen? big/small? by color?).
- 4 Sort, letter label cards, count each category.
- 5 Then, of course: **“now a different way.”** One re-sort.
- 6 **Find the sorts adults hid:** open the silverware drawer — “who sorted this? by what attribute?” Then the pantry, the bookshelf, the toolbox.
- 7 Optional follow-through: **sort the laundry** by owner or by kind — a category system the family runs every week.

Say: “Every drawer in this house is somebody's category. Today you started seeing them — and you will never stop.”

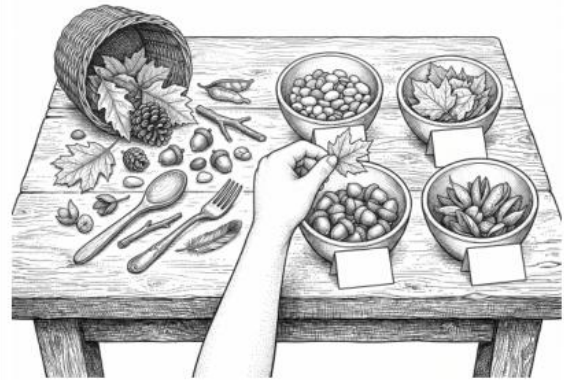


Fig. 1 — collect, pool, and sort the finds — one bowl per category

TEACHER PREP

Baskets by the door before lunch. Rainy-day fallback: raid the recycling bin and the sock drawer — the sort works the same.

What to watch for

- Kids proposing schemes and defending them to each other
- “Living-once vs. never-living” emerging — a B-2 preview, celebrate it

EXPECTED RESULT

The pooled finds sort, then re-sort a second way — and the kids catch the house's **hidden category systems** (drawer, pantry, shelf) red-handed.