

One More Idea: Sorting in Order

REVEAL AT REVIEW

5 MIN

NO PREP

The point

We sorted things into **groups** — buttons with buttons, toys with toys. Here is one more idea: some qualities have an **order**. When a quality is a matter of *more* and *less* — size, length, height — you can line things up from biggest to smallest instead of piling them in groups.

Materials

- A handful of things that differ in one measurable way — buttons of different sizes, sticks of different lengths, nesting cups
- Or nothing at all — use the children themselves

Do it

- 1 Pick a quality that has **more and less**: size, length, height.
- 2 Line the objects up from **most to least** — biggest to smallest.
- 3 Now flip it: **smallest to biggest**. Same set, opposite order.
- 4 Try it with people: line up by **height**. Every child already knows who is tallest!

Say: “Sorting into groups tells us what is the *same*. Sorting in order tells us *how much*.”

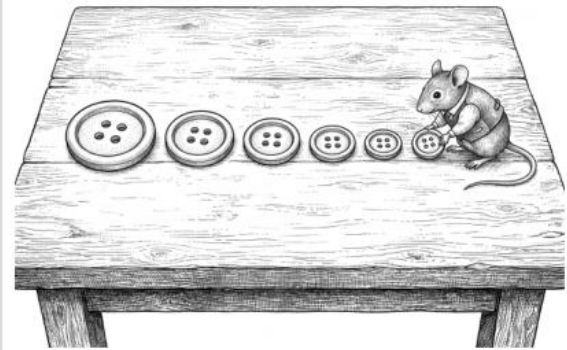


Fig. 1 — the same buttons, now placed in order from largest to smallest

What to watch for

- Kids reaching for the comparing words: *bigger, smaller, more, less, first, last*
- The click that the pile did not change — only how we lined it up

A PEEK AHEAD

PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER BY HOW MUCH IS THE VERY FIRST STEP TOWARD MEASURING AND COUNTING — WHICH IS EXACTLY WHERE THE KIT IS HEADED IN A LESSON TO COME.