

Put It With Its Friends

the lesson's song — sing it, then say what it means



SONG

VERSE 1

Here's a drawer of this-and-that, a jumble on the floor,
Buttons, keys, and pencil stubs, and half a dozen more.
Can't find one paper clip in all that mess — oh dear!
But watch what happens when the categories appear...

CHORUS

Sort it out, sort it out — put it with its friends!
Things that belong together get put together in the end.
A group of things that go alike — "category" is its name,
And when you organize your world, it's never quite the same!

VERSE 2

The grocery store keeps apples where the other apples stay,
The library gives every book a shelf to spend the day.
Your shirts live in the shirt drawer, your blocks live in the bin —
The whole wide world is sorted; look close and you'll fit in!

CHORUS**VERSE 3**

Now sort it all by color! Now sort it all by size!
The stuff is still the same old stuff — surprise, surprise, surprise!
There's no one way that's only right, so choose the way you need:
The ATTRIBUTE's the thing you notice — yes indeed!

CHORUS

Bridge *(slower, wondering)*
And inside every group... another group can hide —

The fruits live in the produce, with the veggies side by side.

A group inside a group? A SUBCATEGORY!
That's how a scientist sorts the world — from acorn up to tree.

Final Chorus *(big, with claps)*

Sort it out, sort it out — put it with its friends!
Things that belong together get put together in the end.

A category's things that go alike — now you know its name,

And now you've organized your world... you'll never see it the same!

How to use it. Play the recording once while everyone just listens. Play it again and join in on the chorus only — that is the part carrying the lesson. By the third time most children have the chorus. Then close the binder and ask what the words actually mean; a child who can sing it and explain it has the idea for good.