

	<h2>Approaches to Learning- Strategies</h2>
<h3>9. Uses classification skills</h3>	

- Model sorting and classifying, and provide opportunities for practice, e.g., prompt and model, “Let's pick up all the toys that are trucks.”
- Sing, recite finger plays, and read books that focus on colors, shapes, machines, animals, or other categories.
- Play sorting and matching games, using materials that are familiar to the child, e.g., toys, clothing, utensils, food labels.
- As the child sorts objects, name the categories and use gestures and statements to point out the similarities of the items in each group. Ask about the groups, e.g., “Why do these things belong together?”
- Provide opportunities to arrange collections into groups by using various rules that you and the child make together.
- Use “mystery boxes” to help develop classification skills. Put one item into the box. Have the child ask ‘yes’ or ‘no’ questions about what is in the box, e.g., “Is it an animal? Is it brown? Does it have four legs? Support the child's efforts by periodically summarizing what is known about the object, e.g., “We know it is a brown animal with four legs. What else do we need to know?”
- Record the child's ideas about each of two groups, e.g., cats and dogs. Ask the child to find similarities between the two groups present their ideas in a Venn diagram.
- Set up a sorting station. Collect small containers of different kinds of objects, some related (buttons, shapes) and some random (small objects). Have the child sort the objects and record their categories. When objects are random children may need more time to sort them, but will likely come up with creative categories.
- Ask the child to record all the ways they can sort the objects provided. Make this a family challenge to see who can come up with the most.
- Enlist the child's help with organizing his/her books. Ask, “How can we organize this collection of books?”
- Give a child several pictures of cartoon characters or famous people. Ask him to think of all the ways the pictures could be sorted.