

## Lesson Plan:

# “I Can Group Objects!”

## Infant/ Toddler

(Birth to 3 yrs)

### Subject:

Basic mathematics and science.

### Focus:

Classification.

### Overview:

This skill is present in rudimentary form at 3 months and evolves and becomes more complex throughout early childhood. Enthusiastic environmental facilitation of this skill gives young children the chance to practice.

### Purpose:

To allow infants to discover their ability in this domain and give them practice with this domain in a concrete, realistic, and relevant fashion.

### Objective:

- To uncover infants' ability to classify objects.
- To tie this ability to real-life situations.
- To give an infant practice at classifying objects.

### Resources and Materials:

- White plastic spoons and white toothbrushes.
- An enthusiastic and supportive caregiver.

### Activities and Procedures:

1. Begin doing this with a 9- to 10-month-old infant who has the motor skills and life experience to assist the activity.
2. Have the infant sit up on his or her own or prop the infant up in a caregiver's lap.
3. Place a single pile of 3 spoons and 3 toothbrushes in front of the infant.
4. Allow the infant to just play with the objects naturally, by putting them in his or her mouth, holding them, and placing them down. Watch how the infant begins to naturally put them in groups by function.
5. If this does not happen naturally, give the infant verbal prompts. Say, “What do you do with these?” “Where do you find these?” and “When do you use these?” (Although infants this age can't produce very many words, they have receptive language and can understand these simple questions.)
6. Repeated exposure may be needed for some infants.
7. Maturation and experience and deliberate connection to real life may also be needed for some infants, who will come to classify these objects after a few more months of learning and growing.

### **Tying It All Together:**

Remember that infants begin classifying objects early. They may also be able to classify more objects than they can communicate to adults. If the infant is unable to classify the objects at first, keep trying. You may need to do this activity a number of times and allow the infant to grow and experience some more before he or she is able to do this skill. You may also have to deliberately tie this lesson to real-life experience in order for the infant to understand. Remember not to give up or get frustrated. Continue to present the spoons and toothbrushes to the infant with support and enthusiasm.

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