

Categorizing:

- Use objects from home for sorting (laundry – socks, shoes, pants; putting away food after grocery shopping – canned goods, frozen foods, fruits, etc.)
- Sort toys by objects (all blocks together, all cars together, all stuffed animals together, etc.)
- Sort by color (all blue blocks together, all red Cheerio's together)
- Sort by shape (put all of the round things together, all of the square things together)
- Use category words in your vocabulary when speaking to your child (a cow is a farm animal, an apple is a fruit, a shirt is clothing, etc.)
- Play word games (A cow is a farm animal – can you think of another animal that lives on a farm? Red is a color – can you think of another color?)
- Play 'your favorite things game' – what is your favorite thing to eat, what is your favorite animal, what is your favorite color?
- Make a habit of using category words in your vocabulary when discussing things with your child. ("That is a pig, it's a farm animal." "Did you know that ice cream is a frozen food?")
- When looking at pictures in books, have your child point to category items (Can you point to an animal? Can you find the food? Can you show me the clothes?)