



Matching Pairs: Making connections

EYFS Area: **Mathematics**

Learning Goal: **Shape, space and measures**

Did you know?

Matching activities encourage organisation thinking - a vital skill for problem solving.

How to play

1. **Collect** a handful of things that have 'pairs' into a box: for example, spoons, socks, lego blocks, marbles.
2. **Explain** the challenge: to pick out matching objects from the tub using their hands without looking inside the box - no peeking!
3. **Use** a scarf as a blindfold and ask your child to pick an object, say what it is, and try to find its pair. If your child does not like their eyes being covered you can put the toys in a cloth bag/pillow case.

TIP: Extend your child's language by talking about the textures they can feel e.g. hard, soft, squashy, spikey, heavy and light.

Level 2

Now ask your child to **describe** what the object is used for before they match it with its pair.

Level 3

When your child is able to describe the objects, try adding objects that are a similar size and shape. For example, apples, potatoes and oranges. Ask your child to describe how they feel and **match them** into pairs!

Top tip

How did your little one manage with the blindfold?! They can play by closing their eyes - or you can even turn out the lights!