

Hanging Up the Clothes

Primary Objectives

13. Uses classification skills

Why It's Important

Grouping similar objects requires a beginning understanding of classification. When your child attempts to group an assortment of items, he develops his ability to notice similarities and differences between objects.

Materials

Six feet of clothesline and clothespins; laundry basket; small items of clothing such as socks, hats, or mittens

What You Do

1. Hang the clothesline across a room or outdoor space low enough for your child to reach. Put the clothes in the basket alongside a supply of clothespins.
2. Invite your child to sort and hang the clothes with you. Explain to him that you want the clothes grouped together on the line (e.g., socks together and mittens together).
3. As your child pulls an item from the basket, talk about the article of clothing as he hangs it. *You picked up the purple sock. Where are you going to hang it?*
4. Describe his work as he continues to fill the clothesline with clothes. *I see that you are keeping the hats in the middle of the clothesline and the socks farther away.*
5. Allow your child to put as few or as many clothes on the line as he chooses. Leave the clothesline up so that he can try the activity later if he chooses.
6. You can extend this activity by asking your child to sort according to different characteristics, such as color, size, or style.
7. You can also share this experience with your child when you are doing laundry. He can sort the clothes into whites and colors, separate his clothes from yours, or match socks.