



Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy
MathStart®

A Pair of Socks

Matching

Level I Ages 3+

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Matching helps children recognize attributes that are the same, note those that are different, and provides an introduction to pattern recognition.

Oh no! The blue-and-red striped sock can't find its mate. It's not in the dirty laundry, or in the washing machine, or even in the clean cloths basket. But maybe with a little help from Pup the mystery can be solved. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert.

DC Standard 4.2, Patterns:

Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of patterns and use mathematical representations to describe patterns.

- Ask questions throughout the story, such as “Are the socks the same?” How is one sock different from the other sock?” and “Which is your favorite sock?”
- Together draw and color some pairs of socks in a variety of patterns. Then cut them out and separate the pairs. Play a game of matching the socks.
- Gather some matched and mismatched household items, such as mittens, socks, shoes, napkins, place mats or towels. Talk about them together using vocabulary from the book. For example: “Which mittens are the same?” “Which towels are different?” “How are they different?”
- Teacher Idea! *from* Brenda Margepts, Balmoral, Manitoba: I like to add manipulatives so kids can touch and recreate the essence of the book. I used lots of pairs of tiny baby socks, which you can find cheap at a Value Village or a second-hand store. The kids matched the pairs. They could also play “Concentration” with them. Make a grid so kids have to lift up flaps to find the socks. In order to make a match, they have to remember where all the different socks are. If you put manipulatives with a book, kids are able tie-in the concepts and they use them to retell the story. It’s excellent.

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