



A Mousy Mess

Printable Activity Page 1
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LET'S SORT THE LAUNDRY!

Children will need a pile of clean clothes, including items such as socks, shirts, pants, and towels.

Get Started

- ▶ Remind children that Albert and his friends had to sort a bunch of toys that Albert had spilled. Review the different ways the mice sorted the toys.
- ▶ Invite children to help sort a load of clean laundry.
- ▶ Point out that the laundry includes different articles of clothing. Have children identify the different kinds of items, such as socks, shirts, pants, and towels.
- ▶ Then sort the clean laundry by making piles of like items.

Other Ways to Sort the Clothes

- ▶ Ask children to suggest other ways to sort the laundry.
- ▶ Point out that you could sort the laundry by whom the clothes belong to: the child, a sister, a brother, mother, or father.
- ▶ The laundry could also be sorted by size: small, medium, and large.
- ▶ Have children sort the laundry in these different ways.
- ▶ Encourage children to sort clothes on a regular basis. You may find yourself a new little helper around the home!



MORE PRACTICE

Children could repeat this activity with washed dishes. They will need supervision. I'm sure you know why! When it's time to empty the dishwasher or drainboard and put dishes and flatware away, have children observe as you begin the sorting process. Encourage children to sort the dishes, placing them into piles on the counter. Then help children sort the flatware into the cutlery drawer. Ask: *What else can we sort? Glasses? Cups? Pots?*





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SORT COINS!



Each child will need:

- a pile of coins, real or play, including pennies, dimes, nickels, quarters, and half dollars (optional)
- as an alternative to real coins, 1 or 2 copies of page 3

Let's Sort

- ▶ Mix up all the coins, or cutouts of coins, that you have.
- ▶ Point out to the child that the pile consists of several different kinds of coins. Have the child identify a penny, a nickel, a dime, a quarter, and a half dollar.
- ▶ Encourage the child to sort like coins into different piles.

Now Let's Count

- ▶ When all the coins have been sorted into piles, have the child identify the kind of coin in each pile. Say: *That's right. Those are pennies, those are nickels, those are dimes, those are quarters, and those are half dollars.* Use a sticky note or scrap of paper to label each pile.
- ▶ Say: *Now let's count the coins in each pile.* If needed, help the child count. As the child finishes counting each pile, add the total number to that pile's label.
- ▶ Ask questions such as, *Which pile has the greatest number of coins? Which pile has the least number of coins?*



MORE PRACTICE

Children can repeat this activity with a collection of different kinds of buttons. The child could sort the buttons by size, color, shape, or number of holes. Again, when the buttons have been sorted into piles, have the child count the buttons in each pile and determine which pile has the greater number of buttons and which has the least number.



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For use with **SORT COINS!**

				
				
				
				
				
				
				
				

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YOUR OWN TREASURE CHEST!

For each child (or pair of children), you will need:

- 🌀 several different small containers in which to put small things found around the home or outdoors
- 🌀 supervision if you visit a park or playground
- 🌀 pair of gloves for handling items found outside (optional)

Start Collecting

- ▶ Children love to collect things. They find things everywhere! Under sofa and chair cushions. In the corners of toy chests. On playgrounds. In parks. A trip to the beach can yield a bucketful of different things!
- ▶ Encourage children to begin collecting small items they find around the house. If possible, you might take them to a playground or park to continue their search for collectibles. With careful supervision, the end result can be a great and varied collection — a treasure chest of wonderful objects!

(SAFETY HINT: Be sure that everyone wears gloves while searching for objects.)

Now for Some Sorting

- ▶ Print page 5. Your child can use this page as a recording sheet for the treasures he or she finds and for ideas about how to sort them.
- ▶ When children have accumulated a sizeable collection, encourage them to think of different ways to sort their treasures. Be sure to have them count the number of things in their different sorting categories.
- ▶ They might consider putting their very favorite things in a separate container. This should be great practice at sorting and even greater FUN!



