

# Collecting and Sorting

## Tinkering With Tools

You and your child observe, explore, describe and test a variety of tools.

## What's the BIG Idea?

Sorting tools into groups by a variety of characteristics

Using simple tools like a scissors, an eyedropper or tape measure

Exploring simple tools

## What's Needed

A collection of tools including: woodworking or shop tools, sewing tools, personal hygiene tools such as a comb, brush or toothbrush, and painting, craft, kitchen, measuring or writing tools.

## Safety Note!

All tools should be touched and used only with direct adult supervision.

## How to Do It

1. Examine and talk about your tool collection:

What words would you use to describe each tool?

In what ways does the tool remind you of another tool or object?

For what job or task would you use that tool?

2. Take time to group the tools by similar characteristics such as: those used for writing, for cooking, for cutting, to make a building, to make a dress, etc.

Your child can also experiment with sorting the tools by which ones have numbers on them (measuring cups or a tape measure, for example), or sorting them by shape or size.

3. Talk about the various tools in your groupings. Are there some you use every day?

Are some tools new to your child? Were you surprised to call a pencil or a toothbrush a tool?

*Bet you never thought of me as a sorter. Well I am. And a pretty good one, too. I spend most of my day **sorting** through different types of grass, until I'm sure I've found the juiciest patch in the field. That's what makes my milk taste sweet. And sweet milk is the secret to great ice cream. Now, aren't you glad I'm a fussy sorter?*

