

Hi there C and N,

One my favourite sorting activities starts out with sorting the kids into groups (might be wearing uniform or kids wearing the same colour clothes, etc...) and then having the kids tell me how I have 'sorted' or 'classified' them. Be patient - they'll get there.

I put 'sort', 'classify', 'attributes', 'counting', etc. all in the Key Words.

I then give all the kids a piece of paper and then 20 to 30 mixed buttons. My challenge for them is to sort them. I give them no other instructions. Watch the kids - one of them will start sorting by colour. When a student does this I usually say something like "Jasmine is sorting her buttons by colour. You can do that too or you might think of another attribute besides colour - love to see it."

Options are colour, size, shape, number of button holes, etc. Let them discover - guide if you need to. Once they have sorted and articulated what 'attribute' they use to 'classify' I get them to count how many of each (eg. how many black buttons, purple ones... or how many big, how many medium...) to reinforce one to one and to allow for comparisons (even graphing).

You can do similar to this for the attribute sets you probably have in your room.

Hope that helps - keep it going you two - love what you have your kids doing - and keep me updated for the 100 ways to 100 challenge!