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Activity: Scavenger Hunt

Materials: assorted items from around the house that come in pairs or sets. For example,

- Sock
- Spoon
- Shoe
- Plate
- Writing utensil
- Block

Directions: gather items in a container or pillowcase. Take one item out and show it to your child, let them explore it, label it, and talk about the salient features (is it red? smooth? long?). Then help them look around the house to find another of the same thing. Continue with the rest of the items you've collected.

Make it easier: collect two of each item. Take one out to show your child and let them explore it. Then, take out the matching item and one that is different. Ask your child to pick the matching item, giving support as needed.

Make it harder: challenge your child to name the items that are taken out, and have them take the lead in locating a matching item somewhere in the house. When gathering items initially, pick a few that will be more challenging, such as a paperclip or screwdriver.

Target areas:

Vocabulary - naming the objects, discussing their characteristics (smooth, small, red, etc.), naming locations in the house where the items are located.

O&M - navigating through the house to locate items.

Basic concepts - contrasting large/small items, discussing what items are used for.

Prepositions - spoons are **IN** the drawer, plates are **OVER** the counter, pens are **ON** the desk, etc.

Memory and following directions - keeping in mind what they are searching for and bringing it back.