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Activity Name: Matching toys and household objects

Materials Needed: Five pairs of matching toys (or household objects). Examples include: two identical cars, two red balls, two yellow circles, two blue blocks, two small dolls. (Or, two spoons, two plastic cups, two toothbrushes, two socks, two crayons).

Directions: This activity can be done anytime your child is alert and anywhere there is a surface for the toys. Apply this to real-world tasks by asking your child to put together a pair of matching clothing items, such as socks or mittens, while she is getting dressed in the morning.

- Introduce each toy to your child and say what it is.
- Place all the toys in front of your child in random order and give your child one item.
- Say, "Can you put this car next to the other car?" or "Can you put this ball next to the other ball?"
- Repeat this process one item at a time until all the identical items are next to each other.
- If your child demonstrates difficulty matching the identical toys, use hand-under-hand prompting to help them locate the matching item on the tray. You can talk about the features of the item that make them the same. (Both of these have 4 wheels, they are both cars. Both of these are round, they are balls, etc).
- Reduce prompting until the child can do this activity independently.

This activity works on tactile discrimination, visual discrimination, and cognitive (matching and sorting) skills. You can continue this concept by letting your child help with laundry (matching big and little socks), help with dishes (putting away and sorting spoons and forks), and when cleaning up their toys (put all of your cars in this bucket).

(This activity was found in, Everyday Activities to Promote Visual Efficiency by Trief & Shaw)