



I'm Starting School – Sorting, Patterns, Matching

Whilst the activities in this activity book may look simple, they are based on the premise that if a child can see patterns in objects, they will then more easily see patterns in numbers - and our whole number system is based on patterns. These activities are invaluable for your child's developing mathematical brain.

Using your coloured counters:

- Have your child sort them into colour groups
- Start a pattern of 2 colours - red, blue, red, blue, red blue...
- Add another colour in - red, blue, yellow, red blue, yellow....
- Add another colour in - red, blue, yellow, green, red, blue, yellow, green...
- Change the number of each colour - 1 red, 2 blue, 1 red, 2 blue...
- Extend that - 2 red, 2 blue, 1 green, 2 red, 2 blue, 1 green....
- Now get the cutlery out and make patterns with spoons, forks, knives....

- Lay your counters out in a row and count them, making sure that your child touches each one as they say the number (this is called 1 to 1 correspondence - the understanding that each object being counted represents "one more")

- You can then talk about ordinal numbers - first, second third....

- Now make groups - make groups of 2, groups of 3, groups of 4....

Good luck!