



From Simple to Complex: Matching, Sorting, Comparing, Ordering, Patterning

Matching, sorting, comparing, ordering and patterning are essential pre-number concepts/skills that children should develop before learning about numbers. The suggested learning and developmental progression of the pre-number concepts and skills is shown in the table below.

Simple		Complex			
Simple	Matching	Sorting	Comparing	Ordering	Patterning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put the same type of objects together Put objects of the same colour, shape or size together Put objects of the same length or height together Put objects together based on child-determined attributes Put objects together based on two or more attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick out one category of objects from an assortment of objects Group two categories of objects (e.g., balls and books) from an assortment of objects Group objects by colour, shape or size Group objects by length or height Group objects by simple features (e.g., texture or type of material) Group objects by child-determined attributes Group objects by two or more attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare objects by size Compare objects by length Compare objects by height 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put three or more objects in an order according to size Put three or more objects in an order according to length or height Put three or more objects in an order according to child-determined attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise and copy simple patterns (e.g., ABABAB, ABBABBBAB, AABAABAAB) Recognise and extend simple patterns Create simple patterns Recognise and extend complex patterns (e.g., AABBAABBAABB, ABBAABBAABBA, ABCABCABC) Create complex patterns
Complex					