# Play sock detective



Ages 2-5 | 5-10 minutes

## You'll need

Two or three pairs of clean socks with easy-to-spot differences; a basket or open box.

## Your child's role

Spread out the socks and choose one. Look for another that goes with it, then put the pair in the basket. After matching, try making groups: long and short, striped and plain, or any grouping your child notices.

## Your role

Let your child handle and compare the socks before offering a clue. Describe something specific, such as, "These both have stripes." If their grouping surprises you, invite them to show you how the socks belong together.

## Make it easier

Offer one sock and a choice of just two possible matches. Or enjoy putting socks into the basket and taking them out.

## Extend the play

Mix the socks again. "Can we find a different way to put these together?" A preschooler might group by size after first grouping by pattern.

## What they're practicing

Noticing similarities and differences, matching and choosing a rule for sorting.