

SAINT PIERRE LEARNING RESOURCES

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MATHEMATICS | QUARTER 1 | DAY 4

PRE-K

Sort, Group & Explain: One Attribute

STANDARDS-FIRST PLANNING

Verified NC alignment: NC Foundations CD-11p (sort 0-10 objects by one attribute); CD-11j (sort familiar objects)

Student target: I can sort objects by one rule and tell why they belong together.

Success criteria: Sort up to 10 objects by color, size, or shape; state the sorting rule.

Teaching overview

Hands-on classification lesson for ages 4-5. The primary activity is concrete sorting; paper tasks are brief picture-based records. Do not expect independent writing from children.

Materials & setup

- 8-10 safe large buttons or linking cubes per child (avoid choking hazards)
- 2 labeled sorting mats and reusable picture cards
- Crayons in two colors; shape cutouts; optional sensory sorting tray

Exactly 80 minutes: daily flow

COMPONENT	TIME
Warm-Up / Spiral Review	8 min
Visual Mini-Lesson	12 min
I Do	10 min
We Do	12 min
Small Group / Centers	18 min
Independent Practice + Early Finisher	15 min
Exit Ticket / Closure	5 min

Early finisher work is completed within the independent-practice block; it does not add time beyond 80 minutes. Quarter placement is a proposed local instructional sequence, not a state-mandated pacing map.

8 min | Warm-Up

Say: "Yesterday we made a repeating pattern. Show an AB pattern with your hands." Count a small set, then transition: "Today we are grouping things that share one feature."

12 min | Visual Mini-Lesson

Display mixed blocks. Think aloud: "I can sort by color even if the shapes differ." Model two sorting hoops. Deliberately place one wrong-color object and invite children to correct it.

10 min | I Do

Show six red/blue shapes. Name the rule, move one at a time, and point out that a red square belongs with red circles when color is the rule.

12 min | We Do

Students sort 4 sets aloud. After each, ask: "What is our ONE rule?" Use thumbs-up checks for correctly sorted items.

18 min | Centers

6 minutes each at color, shape, and size centers. Adult circulates and photographs or records one spoken explanation per child.

15 min | Independent / Challenge

Children complete picture sorting cards, drawing lines or coloring circles. Early finishers try a second sorting rule on the same objects.

5 min | Exit

Give each child six cubes and two trays; ask to sort by color and state the rule. Note independent / prompted / not yet.

Differentiation and access

Support: Use only 4 objects in 2 highly contrasting colors; model each placement with a gesture.

Core: Sort 8 objects by a single announced rule and explain in a sentence.

Extension: Resort the same 8 objects by a different rule, explaining why groups changed.

Language: Provide picture labels and the frame: "I put these together because they are ____."

Misconception to watch

Children may change rules mid-sort (red items, then squares). Re-announce the single rule and use a labeled mat.

Evidence to collect

Photograph one correctly sorted set and record the child's exact explanation.