



MUFFIN TIN SORT

Materials you need:

- Muffin Trays – use the ones with the larger holes rather than the mini muffin trays.
- Circles cut out from coloured paper to fit inside the muffin tray cups.
- Coloured cups, coloured pompom balls, coloured blocks -anything you can use for toddlers to sort and match by colour.

Setup for play:

- Place the trays and sorting materials out on the floor and show baby and toddler how to place objects into the tray and work towards matching colours.
- Let them play in their own way but name the colours every now and then as they pick something else up.
- Don't overcomplicate this activity, they will just enjoy exploring dump, fill and sorting play repeatedly.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children put items in and out of the muffin trays they are learning to:

- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and differences
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Work independently on a project
- Basic counting and number recognition concepts
- Transferring objects through space and object permanence
- How their actions can cause changes in their environment
- Differentiating colours of different objects in front of them.

Extending the play:

- Use an egg carton instead of a muffin tin and just use water colours to colour each cup for matching fun.
- Create a sensory muffin tray for baby to explore at tummy time – add toys like teething rings, baby socks (the ones with bumps on the bottom), crinkly paper, wooden curtain rings and other resources from your open-ended materials collection.

