

## Visual Matching, Color Grading, and Shapes

In the classroom we try to always have at least one of these three groups on our shelves. These are three groups that can easily be recreated at home too!



While our students may have a **matching work** like this in the classroom many of them also help us match lunch napkins and other laundry afterschool! Your child can help sort and match your laundry - socks? Pillow cases? Their own clothes? If they need incentive tell them we would love to see a picture of their work and after they've made matches take a picture and send it to us!

A simple project for your child to do at home is match colors of objects. You could have them group all their legos into color groups or put groups of little figurine toys in color coded groups. After a child knows their basic colors and can name the color "green" then put the green toy under the indicated color green, for example, then we teach them to grade colors from **darkest** to **lightest**. At school we use Montessori Color Tablets which go from matching:



to grading:



This activity can easily be recreated with



paint chips (bonus: field trip to the hardware store!)  
or

or crayons or paints

books:



A fun activity to match colors outside:

- Give your child a selection of paint chips or crayons (or have them choose their own) and ask them to find things in nature that match their colors.

- There are a lot of blooming things right now and mosses/lichens have amazing colors - this can be a surprising activity in how many bright and crazy colors actually occur in nature

As for shapes this can be done anywhere and with just about anything. We teach **2-Dimensional** and **3-Dimensional** shapes and accentuate the vocabulary words. (*Did you know your child can say 2-Dimensional?*)

Here's a 2D shape and size discrimination activity that's easy to recreate at home:



Add squares, rectangles, trapezoids, octagons.

At this moment on my dining table I am noticing that I have a circle-based and a square-based trivet, 2 plant pots that have a circle base and one plant pot that has a hexagon base. My dining table is a rectangle and my dining chairs have triangles and rectangles in the pattern of the wood. I also have a candle that is a cylinder which is a 3-Dimensional shape.

- Where can your child find shapes in your home?
- Can they identify if the shape is 2-D (flat) or 3-D (can be held)
- Can they trace any of the shapes that they find?
- Can they use size discrimination to organize the shapes?