



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