

# SORTING, SIZES & PATTERNS

A range of activities using natural materials.

## Areas of learning

understanding the world  
mathematics

## You will need:

- natural materials, e.g. leaves, sticks, seeds



## Repeating patterns

Collect a range of natural materials and sort them into different groups by colour, shape, size or texture.

Arrange natural materials in a repeating pattern, e.g. green leaf, brown leaf, green leaf etc. for children to complete. You could give them a strip of card with double sided sticky tape on to stick their pattern down as a record.



## Longer or shorter

Ask each child to collect one stick (no longer than from their elbow to fingertips). Place a stick on the ground and ask one child at a time to place their stick down in the correct place to make a line of sticks in size order. Why did they put it in their place, e.g. is it longer or shorter? Ask the other children if they agree.

## Measuring stick

Children collect a stick which will be their measuring stick.

How many sticks wide is the door or window?

Find something that is the same length as their stick.

Is their stick longer or shorter than a range of different objects?

Set them challenges using the measuring stick—find the tallest step or which is the deepest hole in the sandpit?

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