

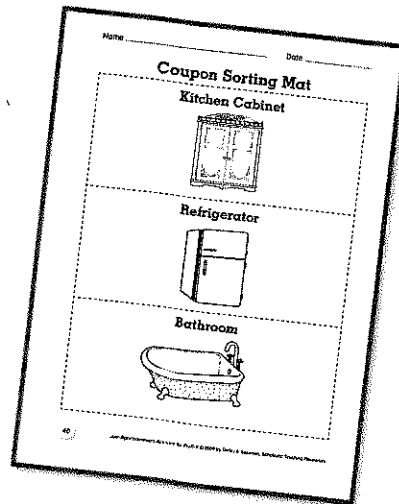
# Coupon Sort

## Targeted skill

Young children are expected to match, sort, and compare numbers as well as sort objects by different categories (for example, by their use).

## Materials

- ◆ Coupon Sorting Mat
- ◆ coupon inserts from Sunday newspapers
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ index cards
- ◆ glue
- ◆ envelopes



## What to do

Coupon Sort is a simple game to create, and it can be used in lots of different ways that support mathematical learning as well as letter naming and phonological awareness.

The first thing you and your child should do is cut out coupons. (Using scissors to cut straight lines helps strengthen your child's fine-motor skills, which in turn helps his or her handwriting.) After cutting out the coupons, glue each one onto an index card.

At first, ask your child to put together coupons that have the same number on them. This is simply a matter of matching. Once he or she can do this, you can introduce a different way to sort coupons: by the place in your house you would put the item. Using the sorting mat, have your child examine each coupon and decide if the associated item should be put into the "kitchen cabinet," the "refrigerator," or the "bathroom."

After you have made a collection of coupon cards, you can begin to use the collection for different math skills.

### Coupon Sort (continued)

#### Extending the activity

When your child becomes accomplished with double-digit numbers, have him or her place the coupons in numerical order. At first, limit the collection to only two coupon values, for example, 10 and 25 cents off. Then have your child sort these, putting the 10-cents-off coupons on the left and the 25-cents-off coupons on the right, talking about smaller and larger numbers. When this seems easy for your child, add another number, then another, and another, as your child's ability to order numbers increases.

#### What your child is practicing

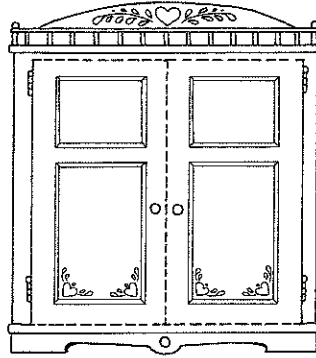
Your child needs lots of experiences with numbers in order to understand how they relate to one another. The Coupon Sort activity provides this and connects numbers to the real world.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

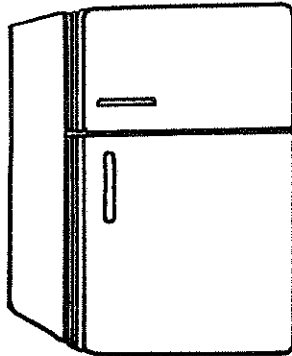
Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Coupon Sorting Mat

## Kitchen Cabinet



## Refrigerator



## Bathroom

