

# What Is This Color?

## Targeted skill

Young children are expected to learn to associate an object's name with its attributes, such as color and shape.

## Materials

- ◆ markers or crayons
- ◆ anything in the house that is an easy-to-identify color

## What to do

When children are first learning to name colors, begin with only one. For example, show your child a red crayon and ask, "What is this color?" Whether he or she says, "red" or another color, respond with "Red. This is a red crayon. Let's find something else that is red." Then look through the house for other things that are red. You might have red shirts or socks in the bedroom or red flowers in the yard. Find as many red things as you can, each time using a full sentence to name the color and the object, such as "This is a red flower," and have your child repeat the sentence after you.

You can do this little game with any color. Over time, the repetition of finding colored items and naming their color will help your child remember what each color is called.

## Extending the activity

After playing this game for a few days, review color names by showing your child crayons or markers and have him or her identify color names that you have practiced recently.

## What your child is practicing

As your child learns to name the color of objects, he or she is learning one type of adjective. Using adjectives expands a child's vocabulary by describing things. Instead of "ball," encourage your child to begin to use expanded language, such as "red ball." Identifying colors of objects is also the first way that children usually begin categorizing objects. The skill of sorting is an important basic math skill for young children to master.