MATCHING & SORTING
ACTIVITY BOOK

Includes 25 Activities!

SKILLS:
• Matching & Comparing
• Color & Size Recognition
• Patterning
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Note to Parents and Teachers

Welcome to this Bear’s Matching and Sorting Activity Book! With the large, medium, and small bear counters and matching and sorting activities, young mathematicians (ages 4-7) will be able to:

- See mathematical relationships and make connections.
- Develop number sense and logical thinking.
- Build bridges between concrete and abstract mathematical thinking.
- Feel successful.
- Have fun!

The 25 activities are divided into three sections:

**Matching**
The matching activities offer children experiences in developing one-to-one correspondence and counting strategies. From matching bears to honey pots to tallying the number of bears in the school picture at Forest School, children will enjoy matching bears, bears, and more bears!

**Sorting**
The sorting activities offer children experiences in distinguishing similarities and differences between objects. In addition, children sort bears by attributes, or properties. Sorting experiences allow children to develop logical thinking — the language of mathematics.

**Matching and Sorting**
These activities combine matching and sorting activities for even more challenging hands-on fun.

**Materials Needed**
Set of 80 bear counters or 4-6 photocopies of page 31, Cutout Bears
Pencils
Crayons or markers
Paper
How to Use These Activity Pages

The activities in this book can be completed independently, with partners, in small or large groups, or in stations. Easy-to-read directions set clear expectations for each of the activities. Engaging questions and data collection tools help encourage higher levels of mathematical thinking and expression. Note: On some pages, bears have been labeled with letters to indicate the bear needed (i.e., R for red, B for blue, G for green, and Y for yellow). Make sure children understand this coding system before doing the activities.

More Activity Ideas
Continue the matching and sorting fun with these extension activities. You may also want to create some of your own. Use the bear counters to:

- Match bears to items in your home or school that have similar attributes. For example, match a large bear to a big appliance such as a refrigerator. Or, match a blue bear to a blue book.

- Match bears to family pictures. Tally and graph the number of large, medium, and small bears in children’s family albums. Also, match bears to pictures in magazines.

- Play “How Did I Sort Them?” Sort bears using the sorting circles on pages 20-21, or make your own. Ask children to sort bears in a variety of ways. Take turns trying to figure out “How Did I Sort Them?” Chart all the possible ways.

- Extend the bear patterns from pages 9, 26 and 28. Have children create and extend their own patterns. In the classroom, have children trade so they can extend each other’s patterns. Ask them to label their patterns with letters (R for red, O for orange, etc.).

- Make patterns using two or more attributes. For example, use small red bears and large yellow bears. Create more challenging patterns by also changing the bears’ positions. For example, place bears upside down, facing forward, facing backwards, facing sideways, etc.

- Discuss the matching and sorting results with your children. Ask them questions like: “What do you notice?” or “How do you know that?” Have them record their answers and thinking strategies in a special matching and sorting journal.
Match your bears to the family pictures below.
Bears love to share honey. Match your bears to the bears sharing each honey pot below.

1. How many honey pots are there? __________
2. How many bears are there in all? __________
Match your bears to the bear patterns below. Then, continue the patterns.

Draw your own pattern below.
BEARS ON PARADE

Match your bears to the parading bears below.

Make another row of bears. Draw the pattern you make below.
Match your bears to the beary hop line below.

Make more beary hop lines with your bears! Here are a few ideas:
Find the bears playing hide-and-seek. Match a bear to each bear you find below.

1. How many bears did you find?  

2. Draw 2 more bears hiding in the bushes. Match bears to them.

3. How many bears are hiding now?  

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Match your bears to the bears doing their stretches.

1. How many bears are like the bear below?

2. How many bears are like the bear below?

__________  __________
Match your bears to the bear families below.

RED

GREEN

YELLOW

BLUE

Draw a line matching the blankets that have the same number of bears.
Match your bears to the large, medium, and small bears below.

**DE BEAR FAMILY**

**BLANCO FAMILY**

**ROONEY FAMILY**

1. Which bear family has the most family members? __________

2. Which bear family has the fewest family members? __________
Name: ______________________________

OH, HONEY!

Draw a line to match each pair of bears to the right honey pots.

1. R  G
   A. Honey Y  Honey G
2. Y  B
   B. Honey R  Honey G
3. G  R
   C. Honey Y  Honey B
4. Y  G
   D. Honey G  Honey R

5. How many bears are there? _________
6. How many honey pots are there? _________
Name: _____________________________

ALL SIZES

Take 2 handfuls of bears. Put an X in the box for every large, medium, and small bear you took.

1. How many large bears do you have? __________

2. How many medium bears do you have? __________

3. How many small bears do you have? __________

Family Fun

Sort your bears by families. Sort a large, medium, and small bear together.

4. How many families do you have? __________

5. Sort the bears into groups of red, green, blue, and yellow bears. How many bears are there in each group?
   - Red: __________
   - Green: __________
   - Blue: __________
   - Yellow: __________

6. Which group has the most bears? __________

7. Which group has the fewest bears? __________
CHAIRS FOR SALE

Pick 8 bears and sort them by size. Match them to the correct chair. Use the size words below the chairs to help you.

CHAIRS FOR SALE

Put an X in the box that matches the size of each bear’s chair. If your first bear is a medium bear, put an X under Bear 1 in the Medium Box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEAR 1</th>
<th>BEAR 2</th>
<th>BEAR 3</th>
<th>BEAR 4</th>
<th>BEAR 5</th>
<th>BEAR 6</th>
<th>BEAR 7</th>
<th>BEAR 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIG</td>
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<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>SMALL</td>
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</table>

Now, count your X’s.

1. How many big bears do you have? □
2. How many medium bears do you have? □
3. How many small bears do you have? □
4. How many bears do you have in all? □
Large bears read big books. Medium bears read medium-sized books. Small bears read small books.

Pick 2 handfuls of bears and sort them by size. Match them to the right book size.

Put an X in the column that matches the size of each bear’s book. Then, count how many X’s you have in each column.
The bears are making a special quilt. Each square must be different. Take 3 handfuls of bears and sort them into the squares.
Take all of your bears. Sort them into groups to choose teams.
Use the Bear Sorting Circles on the next page. Pick 2 handfuls of bears.

1. Place all of your blue bears in **CIRCLE A**.

2. Place all of your small bears in **CIRCLE B**.

3. Where the circles meet, place the bears that would go in both **CIRCLE A** and **CIRCLE B**. They are small blue bears.

Now use the Bear Sorting Circles to sort bears in different ways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CIRCLE A</strong></th>
<th><strong>CIRCLE B</strong></th>
<th><strong>A/B (CENTER)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green bears</td>
<td>Medium bears</td>
<td>Medium green bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red bears</td>
<td>Large bears</td>
<td>Large red bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow bears</td>
<td>Small bears</td>
<td>Small yellow bears</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What other ways could you sort your bears?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CIRCLE A</strong></th>
<th><strong>CIRCLE B</strong></th>
<th><strong>A/B (CENTER)</strong></th>
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</table>
BEAR SORTING CIRCLES

CIRCLE A

A/B

CIRCLE B
Today is the Porridge Eating Contest. Large bears eat in the Big Bowl Contest, medium bears eat in the Medium Bowl Contest, and small bears eat in the Small Bowl Contest.

Pick 2 handfuls of bears and sort the bears by the contest they will eat in. Good luck!

Put X’s in the boxes to keep track of the bears in each contest. Then, count how many X’s you made in each box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTEST</th>
<th>LARGE BEAR</th>
<th>MEDIUM BEAR</th>
<th>SMALL BEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>BIG</td>
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<td>MEDIUM</td>
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<td>SMALL</td>
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How many bears in all are in the Porridge Eating Contest? __________
MORE PORRIDGE, PLEASE!

Red bears eat porridge from red bowls, and green bears eat porridge from green bowls. Pick 3 handfuls of bears and place each bear next to the matching bowl.

1. How many red bowls do you need? __________
2. How many green bowls do you need? __________
3. How many blue bowls do you need? __________
4. How many yellow bowls do you need? __________
5. How many bowls do you need in all? __________

What kind of bowl would you like to eat from? Draw a picture of it.
At the boat races, each boat must have 1 medium bear, 1 large bear, and 1 small bear that all match each other. Match 1 family of matching bears to each boat.

1. How many bears are in each boat? __________
2. How many medium bears are there? __________
3. How many large bears are there? __________
4. How many small bears are there? __________
5. How many bears are there in all? __________
HANGING AROUND

Match a bear to each bear hanging in the tree.

1. How many bears are on the ground? __________
2. How many bears are in the tree? __________
3. How many bears are there in all? __________
It’s picture day at Forest School! Match a small bear to each small bear in the picture.

How many bears are in each row?

Row 1:__________  Row 2:__________  Row 3:__________

Sort the bears into groups of red, green, blue, and yellow bears. How many bears are there in each group?

Red:__________  Green:__________  Blue:__________
Name: _____________________________

**AT THE RACES**

Pick 2 handfuls of bears. Place your bears in their matching starter lanes.

**BEARY 100 RACES**

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<tr>
<td><strong>RED</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GREEN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BLUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YELLOW</strong></td>
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</table>

Pick more bears. Sort them until all teams have the same number of bears.
The bears are going on a field trip. Match your bears to the bears in the groups below. Draw a line to the 2 groups that match.
BOARD THE BUSES

Sort the bears you grouped on page and line them up by their matching bus.

1. How many bears will ride each bus?

   Red:__________      Green:__________      Blue:__________
Large bears need big beds. Medium bears need medium beds. Small bears need small beds.
Take 2 handfuls of bears and match them to the right bed size.

How many bears need big beds? __________
How many bears need medium beds? __________
How many bears need small beds? __________
Which size bed do the bears need the most of? __________
Which size bed do the bears need the fewest of? __________
Total the number of beds below.

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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MEDIUM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SMALL</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CUTOUT BEARS

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**Answer Key**

p. 5  Check for correct matches.
p. 6  1. 6 honey pots  2. 12 bears
p. 7  Check for correct matches.
p. 8  Check for correct matches.
p. 9  Check for correct matches.
p. 10  1. 9 bears  2. Check for 2 more bears.  3. 11 bears
p. 11  1. 6 bears  2. 2 bears
p. 12  Red and blue blankets match. Yellow and green blankets match.
p. 13  1. De Bear Family  2. Blanco Family
p. 15  Answers will vary.
p. 16  Answers will vary.
p. 17  Answers will vary.
p. 18  Check for correct matches.
p. 19  Check for correct matches.
p. 20-21 Check for correct sorting.
p. 22  Answers will vary.
p. 23  Answers will vary.
p. 24  1. 3 bears  2. 3 medium bears  3. 3 Large bears  4. 3 Small bears  5. 12 bears
p. 25  1. 3 bears  2. 6 bears  3. 9 bears
p. 26  1. Row 1: 5 bears,  Row 2: 4 bears,  Row 3: 3 bears
      2. Red: 4 bears, Green: 4 bears, Blue: 2 bears, Yellow: 2 bears
p. 27  Check for correct sorting.
p. 28  Group 1 matches Group 4.
p. 29  1. Red bus: 4 bears
      Green bus: 3 bears
      Blue bus: 3 bears
      Yellow bus: 2 bears
p. 30  Answers will vary.