

## Home Learning Nursery

### Activity – Button Search

#### Resources

- Buttons (can also be on clothes)
- Other small items that can be easily collected and sorted such as bottle top lids or natural objects such as stones.



#### Method

Go on a button search around the house. You may find you have a special place where you keep spare buttons or these may still be attached to your clothes. See how many buttons you can find and then have a go at using trays or an egg carton to sort the buttons out. Stones, pebbles, and other collectable objects also work really well. Model describing the buttons you see to your child so they begin to notice different details such as number of holes, colour, shape, and size. Encourage them to notice similarities and differences between them. Once you have sorted your buttons you may want to play some games that will support your child in their listening and attention. A good one is 'the button I am thinking...' Can your child find the button you are describing?

#### Parental Guidance:

In school we have been using the words '**I can notice...**' to begin describing the different features of the objects we are sorting. We have also been encouraging the children to speak in full sentences '**I can notice there are two holes in the yellow button**', 'that big blue button is different because it is a square shape'. We have been using the language '**exactly the same**', '**similar**' and '**different**'. We have been learning to subitise up to three (recognise small quantities of objects without counting). See if your child can do this with the number of holes in the buttons. Once you have sorted to your buttons you may want to spread them out on a large surface such as a tray or table. Keep the buttons in their sorted groups so that your child can see how many are in each group. This is a good opportunity to talk about quantity. 'There are **more** blue buttons and **fewer** pink ones' 'there are the **same** number of yellow ones. (we use the word fewer rather than less when talking about quantifiable objects).

#### How to get your child thinking?

- How are you sorting your buttons?
- What can you notice about this button?
- Can you guess which button I'm describing?
- Can you describe a button to me?