

# Classifying Cars

## **Lesson at a glance:**

Students will practice identifying characteristics and sorting objects using a variety of toys with wheels.

## **Skills:**

Observing, Matching, Comparing, Sorting

## **Grades:**

K-2

## **Materials:**

- ❑ A variety of toys with wheels
- ❑ Yarn for sorting circles
- ❑ Butcher paper/marker
- ❑ White board/dry erase pens
- ❑ Pictures of vehicles from magazines or the internet



## **Background:**

Characteristics may include number of wheels, size, color, material the toy is made from, number of or lack of doors, number of movable parts, whether the toy resembles a real vehicle or not, the brand of the toy, etc.

## **Activity:**

### **Part 1:**

1. Ask students to each bring at least one or two toys from home that have wheels.

### **Part 2:**

1. When you are ready for this lesson, have the students gather on the floor in a circle.
2. Bring out the toys and place them where students can see them but do not allow students to touch them.
3. Tell students that they are going to classify (put the toys in groups) by their characteristics (how they look the same or different from the other toys).
4. Lay two yarn sorting circles on carpet in the center of the students.
5. Ask the class: How can we sort these toys? Have the students choose the groupings (you may need to help them narrow down the groupings). Let the students look at and analyze the information in a variety of ways.
6. Once the students have decided on their first grouping, use the white board and start a list of different groupings.
7. Continue to come up with different ways to group the toys into two groups until you feel that they are ready to move on.



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**Part 3:**

1. Create KWL chart (a 3 part chart: what we KNOW, what we WANT to know, and what we LEARNED) from the information shown and discussed about vehicles. Fill in what we KNEW and what we want to LEARN from this point on. Use this information to begin the car unit. Revisit the chart at the end of the unit and have the children key out the vehicles again. See if their groupings changed.

**Extensions:**

1. Take a "field trip" to your school's parking lot and look for different and similar characteristics on the vehicles in the parking lot.

**Assessment:**

1. Have students find pictures of two cars (on the internet or in a magazine) and make a list of similarities and differences.
2. Repeat this activity with other objects.



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