

Families are  
Children's  
First  
Teachers

Invite your toddler or preschooler to help you sort and fold laundry.

*This task is full of many learning opportunities for children.*

**Matching socks helps children learn more about math concepts.** Hold up a sock and ask your child to find one that is the same color or that has the same color stripes or design. When he finds a match, clap and praise him. "You did it! You found the matching sock!" Then, help him roll the socks together and put in the laundry basket or sock drawer. You can continue to do this matching and sorting game with socks, washcloths, dish towels, and other laundry items.

**Counting together helps your child understand the idea that you add one each time you count higher.** Once you have several matches, count together how many pairs of socks, washcloths, or dish towels you have. Whenever counting with your child, be sure to touch each item or have him touch them as he puts them in the laundry basket while you count. Ask questions. This will help him to learn that counting means adding one more item each time.

**Talking with your child in the language of your family as you work together helps develop her language skills.** Describe the names and colors of the clothes you are folding. Talk about the textures and feel them together. Discuss which family member wears that particular item of clothing. Compare the sizes. "Whose shirt is bigger? Daddy's shirt is bigger."



Download the "**Families are Children's First Teachers**" materials and related documents at [www.newmexicokids.org](http://www.newmexicokids.org) under the Caregivers & Educators tab.

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## When You Are Sorting Laundry

### **Learning Opportunities Include:**

- Noticing similarities and differences
- Counting
- Developing independence
- Communication with others