



Dressing Up

Sorting and describing
Counting reliably



Children often enjoy dressing up.

Adults could provide a variety of dressing-up clothes and accessories, perhaps linked to the theme of the role play area, including gloves and socks which come in pairs.

The Activity

Observe what children do with the clothes and, when appropriate, join with them. Provoke their thinking further by asking, for example, "Can we all wear gloves?".

Encouraging mathematical thinking and reasoning:

Describing

What can you tell me about the gloves/socks/hats/trousers/dresses/clothes ...?

Recording

How could you show the different people you could pretend to be?
What would you like to take a photograph of?

Reasoning

Have we got enough gloves/socks/hats/trousers/dresses ... for any more children?
Will we have any gloves/socks/hats/trousers/dresses ... that are not used?

Opening out

Are there enough clothes for everyone to get dressed up?
How many dressing-up clothes do you need to become Superman/Cinderella ...?

The Mathematical Journey

Counting:

- saying one number for each object
- remembering the pattern of the number sequence
- understanding cardinality i.e. that the last number gives the total

Same and different:

- developing the use of language to compare and contrast the size of one item of clothing with another e.g. bigger, smaller, longer, shorter, larger ...
- grouping items of clothing which 'belong' together e.g. pairing gloves

Development and Variation

Encourage children to consider the fact that gloves and socks come in pairs by asking questions such as, "Why will there be more socks/gloves than hats?". Some children may notice the pairs themselves and be keen to match the two socks/gloves together.

Challenge the children to hang up/collect together all the clothes which make up one outfit, for example all the Cinderella clothes. They may wish to record the total number of items which make up each outfit on the coat hanger, for example, which would make it easy to know if any are missing next time.

You could pretend that the dressing-up clothes have been washed and therefore need hanging up on the line to dry - see the NRICH EYFS "Washing Line" activity which focuses on dolls' clothes.

The dressing-up clothes could become items to sell in a shop (perhaps in the role play area). In the shop context, the clothes will need to be sorted and outfits collected together but also there will be opportunities for writing price tags, paying for goods etc. You may like to look at the NRICH EYFS activity "Shopping" which could be adapted for Pirates' clothes!



Resources

Dressing-up clothes and accessories

A camera may be useful to take photos

