



# Packing

Sorting and describing, using mathematical properties such as size, shape, weight, capacity, distance and pattern

Counting and comparing numbers



**Children often enjoy** putting “like” things together, when putting things away and gathering them together.

**Adults could** have lots of boxes, (or trays), perhaps “shoe-box” style available for children to use as well as large groups of small items like zoo/farm animals, train set carriages, or any similar shaped items.

## The Activity

You could provoke the children by saying something like, “These have all got muddled up” as you present them with an assortment of small items.

## Encouraging mathematical thinking and reasoning:

### Describing

Tell me about your box and the . . . you are putting away.  
How many will fit? Will they all fit?

### Recording

Do you want to make a new label for the box showing how many are inside?

### Reasoning

Looking at all the boxes we’ve got here, who has the most . . . in their box.  
How do you know?  
Could we fit more/fewer in . . . ’s box?

### Opening out

Which boxes/trays would be best for keeping which things in?  
Are some things better to be kept in something other than a box or tray? If so what?

