

# Sorting with Goldfish

A snack-tivity to engage young children in early number sense and numeracy

For each child you'll need:

Multi-color goldfish crackers

Folded paper napkin



Instructions:

1. Give each child a folded paper napkin and a serving of Goldfish crackers
2. Instruct the children to unfold their napkins so that they can see 4 squares



3. Demonstrate sorting one color Goldfish into each square on the napkin. Older children should be able to do this with little guidance, but younger children may need some help along the way.



Toddlers and 2's:

Discuss colors and counting.

Count as you eat.

They will likely double-count or decide they would rather eat, but demonstrate counting and repeat the color names.

### 3's:

Count along with the children by demonstrating on your own snack.

They will just be getting comfortable with counting, so some will still double-count or have a hard time staying focused.

### Pre-K:

Count along with children and demonstrate on your own snack.

Help kids who have trouble staying focused by reinforcing the goal.

Demonstrate writing numbers or choosing numbers from a series.

Group Goldfish by quantity (count by 2's or 5's)

Do simple word problems:

If you have 4 green fish, and you eat one, how many green fish are left?

You have 4 orange fish and 3 purple fish, how many fish are there all together?

### School Age:

Sorting, counting, grouping, writing numbers, and simple operations such as addition and subtraction can be practiced with this activity.

You may want to offer or have the children make addition, subtraction, and equal signs to use for the activity.



## Eat and Enjoy!

For more information and activities from U of A Cooperative Extension, visit

[www.uaex.edu/childcare](http://www.uaex.edu/childcare)

