



Same and Different

Pick two items in the classroom or two items from outside. Ask children to look carefully at each item (e.g., two toys or a stick and a leaf). Then ask them to explain how the 2 items are the same and how they are different. Encourage children to consider physical characteristics, as well as where they're found, who uses them, and how they're used.

Examples:

Two stuffed animals, a teddy bear, and an elephant.

- ◆ Same: both have 2 eyes, 4 legs, they're both soft
- ◆ Different: bear has little ears, elephant has big ears, elephant has a trunk and bear does not

Prompt Children to Compare, Contrast, and Categorize

- ◆ **Compare**: "How are these cups the same?"
- ◆ **Contrast**: "How is this leaf different from this one?"
- ◆ **Categorize**: "Let's sort these toys into soft and hard."