Ukufunda
Let's get involved in our children's education

DEBBIE STOTT

MATHEMATICS IS A WAY OF THINKING

NEWSPAPER SCAVENGER HUNT

Choose an article in the newspaper (or use the whole newspaper) and get your child to circle all the numbers they can find in the article / newspaper. Then, depending on your child's grade you can get them to classify the numbers as different things. For example:

- Numbers less than 10, numbers more than 100 etc. (Grade 1 upwards)
- Even or odd numbers (Grade 1 upwards)
- Money (Grades 1 upwards)
- 1, 2, 3 or 4 digit numbers (Grades 3 & 4 upwards)
- Fractions or whole numbers (Grades 3 & 4 upwards)
- Percentages and decimals (Grades 5 & 6 upwards)

On a piece of paper, write the categories (or draw circles / boxes) you want your child to use and then get them to sort the numbers they have found in the newspaper under each category. An example is shown to the right.

THINGS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD

- Can we sort another way?
- Are there some things that are easier to sort than others?
- What happens when we cannot divide things into neat groups? **Venn diagrams** can be used for sorting when this happens.

WHAT IS A VENN DIAGRAM?
An illustration that uses overlapping or non-overlapping circles to show the relationship between groups of things. Where the circles overlap, items have a something in common. Where the circles do not overlap, the items do not have anything in common. John Venn introduced the illustration in 1880.

When sorting, ask your child these questions
What is the same about ...?
What is different about ...?

Numbers less than 10: 5 3 9
Money: R12.99 R150000
Percentages: 50% 10%
Odd numbers: 102 560
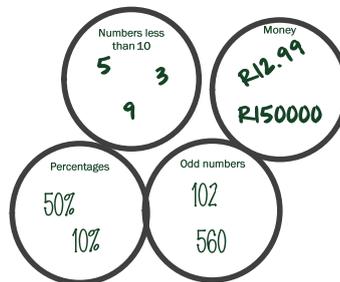
CLASSIFYING PUZZLES
Here are two classification puzzles to try. Draw the shapes to complete the pattern in each square.
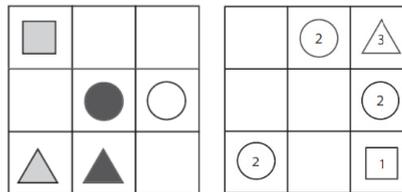
MAKE IT COUNT

◁ Welcome back to Make It Count. In the next 3 editions we offer activities that involve sorting and classifying as these are essential skills in mathematics. We sort and classify objects every day, whether we realise it or not.

When we sort and classify objects, pictures, words (or anything else), we determine **characteristics** that the objects share, and characteristics they don't share. We identify how they are **the same** and how they are **different**.

Deciding which attribute to sort by is an important reasoning skill. Most things we come across have more than one attribute, so they can be sorted in many ways.

The activities this week are 'scavenger hunts', one using a newspaper and the other numbers in the community. Hope you enjoy them!

RHODES UNIVERSITY
*Where leaders learn*
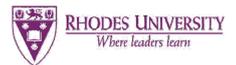
NEIGHBOURHOOD NUMBER SCAVENGER HUNT

1. Cut out this grid and use for an on-going number search family project. Look for the numbers 1 to 40 in your community.

2. Use the spaces next to each number to write down who found the number and where they found it as the numbers are found: on a car, on a sign, on a building and so on.

EXAMPLE
1	Mom found it Car licence plate
2	I found it Clicks 2 for 1 special

When you've found all the numbers, you can sort the things you have found into categories. Use tally marks to count. For example:
How many were numbers found on Signs? Cars? Buildings? Street?
OR sort by the family member who found the numbers e.g. Mon, Dad, etc.

Buildings: III
Mom: I
Signs: ||||| |
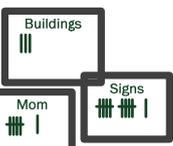
Again, draw circles or boxes for your categories and add up the numbers for each.
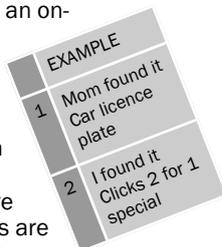
1		11		21		31	
2		12		22		32	
3		13		23		33	
4		14		24		34	
5		15		25		35	
6		16		26		36	
7		17		27		37	
8		18		28		38	
9		19		29		39	
10		20		30		40	

HINT
Look for **WORDS** that have numbers in them, such as "one stop shopping," "two-*day service*," "*buy one, get one free*," or "*open seven days a week*"