

STEM *starts now*

Button Cup Cakes

Recommended Age: 18-24 Months

STEM concepts: Math (number sense and operations, patterns and classification, spatial relationships, mathematical reasoning)

Materials: a muffin pan, felt buttons (You may choose to use real buttons, this may provide your toddler with a possible choking hazard so please do not leave your child unattended to complete this activity. We have found the felt buttons are the best option and can be made or purchased online in a variety of sizes.)

What to do: Dump the buttons onto the floor or table and place the muffin tin in front of your child. Place one of each different button into the muffin tins. Have your child sort the remaining buttons into the tin. While they are sorting the buttons have them count how many they have all together or in each tin.

Language and Communication: Ask your child why they choose to sort the buttons the way they have. Depending on the buttons you use you may have options to sort them by shape, color or size. Make sure your discussing these options with your child.

Expand the Activity: Make a pattern in the way the buttons are sorted. For example, purple squares, green squares, red squares, purple circles, green circles, red circles. See if your child can find the pattern or talk about it with them.

