



## Sorting Nature at the LCCC Arboretum

1. Children collect nature items found on the ground into paper bags
2. Sort the items into large baskets or boxes by categories, for example:  
  
First by color, second by shape, third by type of leaves or needles  
fourth by size, fifth by whether alive or non-alive, then by other classes depending on the season or what items were collected
3. For each classification, count the number in each category
4. On the picnic tables, create a large chart of the number of objects to measure which category had the largest number each time items were sorted
5. Use the items in a different way: make patterns with nature on the tables
6. Photograph the nature items in their sets and in patterns to discuss when back in your classroom
7. Return the nature to the ground.

