

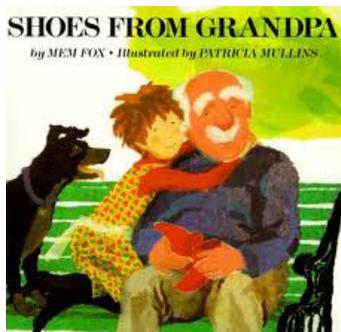
# Shoe shenanigans

## Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Help your child to gather up all the footwear that can be found around the house, e.g. shoes, boots, slippers, sandals, etc.
- ❖ Begin by sorting the footwear into two groups, e.g. "shoes with laces" and "shoes without laces."
- ❖ As you sort the footwear, talk about each item. Ask your child to help you decide where each one belongs, and place it with others in the same group.
- ❖ Change the groups and sort again, e.g. "children's shoes" and "adult shoes" or "inside shoes" and "outside shoes."



## A good read-together book



Shoes from Grandpa by Mem Fox

You will need a collection of footwear such as shoes, boots and slippers.

This activity is good for learning descriptive words, talking about how things are the same or different and sorting into categories.

## Hints for success

- ❖ Encourage your child to think of different ways to make groups.
- ❖ Make a label for each group. Invite your child to draw a picture for each label, and add the words as well.

What shall we do with these shoes? You wear them inside AND outside!

These are shoes for jogging, so I'm going to put them in the "sports shoes" pile.

## Ways to say it

# More ideas for Shoe shenanigans

## Try this way

- ❖ Play a game with younger children in which you pile several pairs of shoes together. Choose one shoe and then help your child look through the pile to find its match.
- ❖ With older children, try sorting footwear into more than two groups at a time, e.g. by patterns on the soles, by style, by their uses, etc. Help your child to think of interesting categories for sorting and labeling.

## Language development

Read the book **A Flock of Shoes** together. Talk about some of the adventures that your shoes have had. Take turns telling true or imaginary stories about where your own footwear might have traveled.

## Early literacy

Find pictures of footwear in old catalogues, magazines or flyers. Give your child some blunt scissors to cut out pictures of footwear, and make groups by gluing the pictures on paper. Help your child make labels for each of the groups.



## Early numeracy

After you make groups of different kinds of footwear, count the number of items in each group. Talk about which group has the most and which has the least. Make a graph together by tallying the number of shoes in each group.

## Book link

**A Flock of Shoes** by Sarah Tsiang