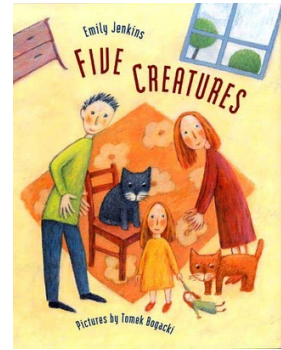


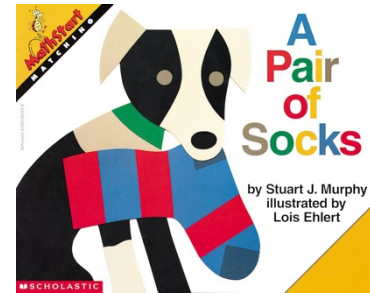
***Five Creatures***  
**by Emily Jenkins**



Five Creatures is a book that encourages children to classify members of their families. The child in Five Creatures tells the reader about her family that consists of three people and two cats. She groups the members according to their likes and dislikes, their appearances, skills, and habits. The book does a nice job of discussing ways in which family members are the same and different and sweetly concludes with, “And five who sit together in the evening by the fire.”

- Talk about each scene and ask, “What do you see?” “How are the creatures/family members the same or different?”
- Make your own “ \_\_\_\_ Creatures” book with categories that you and your child come up with. Remember the number of creatures stays the same, just like in *Five Creatures*.
- Act out the Five Creatures book or your own creatures story. Recruit your whole family and have fun finding ways that the creatures in your home are the same and different.

***A Pair of Socks***  
**by Stuart Murphy**

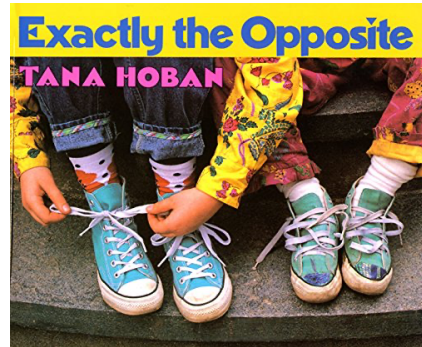


Does a polka-dotted sock match a striped sock? Young children will learn about matching, an important early math skill, as a lonely striped sock searches the house for its mate.

In this book, children are introduced to the important concept of same and different. On each page, the sock finds a possible match in various places around the house. The book ends with a two-page spread of all the socks shown in the book and children are invited to find all the matching pairs. The brightly colored pictures make it easy for children to see the patterns and colors in each sock.

- Invite your child to help find pairs of socks when you are putting away your clean clothes.
- Classify clean clothing in groups by separating shirts, pants and underwear into piles. Define groups: These are the pajamas, these are the shirts, etc. Then separate the clothes by creating the clothes that belong to each member of the family. This is dad's clothes, baby's clothes, etc.
- In the winter, organize the family's gloves or mittens in pairs for easy finding and to prevent them from getting lost throughout the house.
- After you wash the silverware, ask your child to help you put them away in the drawer, making sure that they are all in their proper place with other matching silverware.

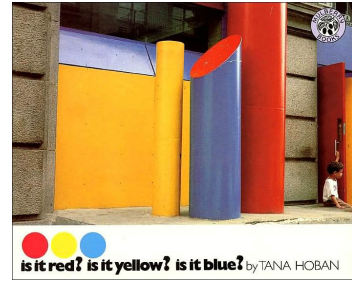
***Exactly the Opposite***  
**by Tana Hoban**



Brilliant photographs present a world of possible opposites- open-ended and thought-provoking, as one expects from Tana Hoban's camera. Are the hands open and closed, or are they left and right? You decide. Is the hammock empty and full or near and far? There is no one answer, but there are many opposites to think about, talk about, and discover.

- Things can be different in more than one way. For each set of pictures, talk with your child about how they are opposites.
- After reading the story, act out opposites! Choose some opposites from the book or make up your own. You can act out one opposite and your child either has to guess what the opposite is or act it out. This is not only exposing your child to language, but getting the meaning of these words into their bodies! As your child gets the hang of it, let your child be the first to act out a word and you have to guess and act out the opposite.

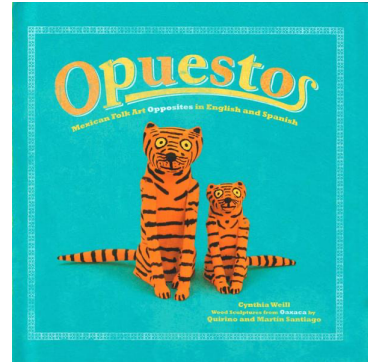
***Is It Red? Is It Yellow? Is It Blue?***  
**by Tana Hoban**



In this book of color photographs, color as well as size, shape, and relationships are explored. This is a concept book that children can grow with- learning more about the world he or she lives in each time the page turns. How many wheels does the red bicycle have? What shape are the jack-o-lantern's eyes? Where is the hydrant? Each magnificent photograph sparks the imagination and proves once again that the unexpected- and miraculous- are all around us.

- Have children point out each color on a page. Some pictures might be easy to count, but others may not. Counting isn't always necessary to know that there's more or less. Listen to how your child makes sense of comparing quantities, including any hand gestures or actions that represent more/less. Ask your child questions like:
  - Which color has more/less?
  - Are any equal?
  - How do you know?
- Play a Color Scavenger Hunt. Set a timer for 2 minutes and see how many things of different colors your child can find. When time is up, help him/her sort the items by color, making sure to talk about objects that may have more than 1 color, to decide on which color group they belong to. Then they can decide which group has more or less.

***Opposites***  
**by Cynthia Weill**



Front, back, left, right- I read my Opuestos every night! This book of opposites in English and Spanish uses beautifully hand-carved wood sculptures made by a family of artisans in Oaxaca, Mexico.

After reading the story...

- Act out opposites! Choose some opposites from the book or make up your own. You can act out one opposite and your child either has to guess what the opposite is or act it out. This is not only exposing your child to language, but getting the meaning of these words into their bodies! As your child gets the hang of it, let your child be the first to act out a word and you have to guess and act out the opposite.