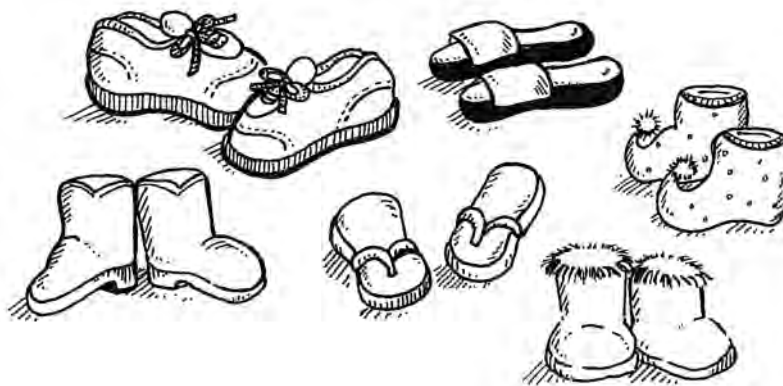


# A Bag of Shoes

**Materials** various pairs of shoes, slippers, and boots  
grocery bags

- What to do**
1. Gather a variety of shoes for this activity (check yard sales and second-hand stores). Send a note home asking for donations of old pairs of shoes that are clean enough for classroom use. With large shoes, children are more willing to leave their socks on while trying on the shoes.
  2. Place the shoes in a pile and ask the children to find matches or "pairs."
  3. Ask them to do a variety of sorting activities. For example, ask them to put all of the shoes that could be worn in the snow in one pile and all of the shoes that could be worn in the summer in another pile.
  4. Children can sort shoes by size, color, marks on the soles, or by those with laces, Velcro, or buckles.
  5. Encourage the children to count how many shoes, slippers, and boots there are and compare the results.
  6. At the end of the activity, have the children find pairs of shoes and put them in grocery bags.
  7. Put the shoes in the dress-up so the children can try them on.



**More to do** Read *The Shoemaker and the Elves* to the children. Set up a "shoe-making" area with shoes and toy hammers. The children can pretend to be elves making shoes.

 Sandra Nagel, White Lake, MI

# Gone Shoe Shopping Rhyme Play

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**Materials** magazines  
scissors  
glue  
note cards or shoeboxes

- What to do**
1. Ask the children to talk about some of their shoe shopping experiences. These may include why they got new shoes, where they went, and how they were measured for shoes.
  2. Tell the children that they will pretend to visit as they participate in the following rhyme and movements.

### Going Shoe Shopping

*My old shoes don't keep out water very well, (Shake head no.)*  
*And when they're wet, mom says they smell! (Hold nose.)*  
*We went to the shoe store and walked in the door,*  
*There were boxes of shoes stacked from ceiling to floor. (Point up, then down.)*

*Shiny shoes that look good to dance in, (Dance a few steps.)*  
*Big black boots to direct traffic in, (Wave arms or point.)*  
*High-heeled shoes, worn with best clothes, (Raise up on tiptoe.)*  
*Tall, furry boots to warm cold toes. (Stamp "cold" feet and hug body.)*

*There! Bright orange sneakers—bouncy and light! (Bounce gently.)*  
*The shoe store clerk tied them to fit just right. (Hold out foot for tying.)*  
*I waited so that mom could pay,*  
*Then home I skipped, all the way! (Skip.)*

3. Cut out pictures of all kinds of shoes. Glue the pictures to separate note cards or put each picture in a separate shoebox. Let each child choose a card and talk about who might wear the shoe, what kind of job the person might have, and what clothes the person might wear with the shoes.
4. Have the children sort the cards by color or type of shoe.

 Theresa Callahan, Easton, MD