

## Button Play: Possibilities for open-ended exploration

**Sort buttons in piles** | What ways can you find to sort buttons? You might think about size, color, shape, number of holes, texture, old/new, material, etc.

**Sort buttons along a continuum** | Draw a line (or imagine one). How might you arrange buttons from one end to the other? You might think about smallest to largest, funniest to least funny, oldest to newest, shiniest to dullest, etc.

**Explore movement and sound** | How might you make a button move? What sounds can a button make? Explore in ways that surprise you!

**Look and look again** | Take time to look at a button. Look closely. Even closer. What might you find?

**Wonder** | Hold a button in your hand, close your eyes, and wonder. Let yourself play in your wondering. What do you find?

**Touch** | Close your eyes (or put a button inside something where you can't see it). What can you find when you touch a button carefully? Look closely with your touch.

**Stack** | Have you tried to stack some buttons? How many can you stack? Can you get them to stay and fall? Which ones stack more easily? Are some impossible to stack?

**Roll** | What might you discover from trying to roll a button? How does a button like to roll? When does the button *not* roll? What other thing roll like buttons?

**Draw to notice** | Find a piece of paper and a pencil, crayon, or pen. Look at your button and draw what you see. Draw to find something new, something you haven't seen before. What do you notice?

**Count** | What kinds of things might you count on a single button? What might you count with a pile of buttons? Can you find new ways to count?

**Pattern** | Do you see any patterns on a button or in a pile of buttons? How might you create a repeating pattern with buttons? What about a growing pattern?

**Tell stories** | What stories might you tell about a button? What stories might your button want to tell you? If you don't hear any stories yet, close your eyes and listen carefully.

**Explore holes** | Focus on a few buttons and their holes. You might count, look through, find questions, poke yarn through, or something else. What do you notice and wonder about the holes?

**Explore clothing** | Do you have buttons on your clothes? Find a few. How are they attached? How do they work with the buttonholes? What else do you notice and wonder?

**What else?** | How do YOU like to play with a button? What kinds of button play might you invent?