



## Spring Training: Have a Ball!

### Objective

Learners that participate in this activity will be better able to:

- 1) Identify balls used in different sports.
- 2) *Make comparisons between objects* by sorting sports balls into order and into categories (e.g., softest to hardest, smallest to largest, bouncy and not bouncy).
- 3) Use gross motor skills to throw balls at a target.

### You will need

- Sports balls with various qualities (large, small, hard, soft, bouncy, not bouncy) and a large receptacle (such a plastic bin or toy chest).
- A clear space where a child can sort the balls and then throw them into a receptacle.

### Lesson

1. Invite the child to explore the collection of sports balls. Ask “How are these balls different from each other?”
  2. Depending on the child’s answer, say “Can you help me organize them? Let’s put them in order of size/softness/bounce/etc.”
  3. Assist the child as he or she sorts the balls on the floor. When finished, invite the child to toss the balls, in order, into the receptacle.
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### Read

Find some storybooks about baseball at your local library. Some of our favorites:

- *H is for Homerun* by Brad Herzog, 2004.
- *My Little Friend Goes to a Baseball Game* by Evelyn Finnegan, 1994.
- *Big Bird at Bat* by Sarah Albee, 1995.