



## Collecting!\*

Collecting one type of thing on purpose can be such fun. It teaches us to focus, observe carefully, compare, and to classify things. These are high-level thinking skills! Some people have collections they work on their whole lives and these lead them to meeting new people and traveling. Occasionally, collections may even be worth big money. So get your children started collecting something that interests them!

### Here are some ideas:

- 1) There are hundreds of things that kids can collect without much cost. Here's a short list of possibilities to get children started thinking about their personal interests:

Angels (ceramic)	Autographs	Baseball cards	Beads	Books
Bottle tops	Bugs	Campaign buttons	Charms	Coins
Comics	Diecast cars	Disneyana	Dolls	Figurines
G.I. Joes	Hot wheels	Little boxes	Matchbooks	Model airplanes
Model trains	Pictures	Postcards	Rocks	Sno-globes
Stamps	Stickers	Stuffed animals	Tin toys	Yo-yos

- 2) Part of the fun of collecting is sorting things into categories or groups. For example, rocks can be sorted by color, texture, type, or where they came from. Figurines or hot wheels can be sorted by age and style. Stamps and coins can be sorted by country, age, or value. Insects and natural items can be sorted by species.
- 3) While you encourage your children to collect things, also help them find ways to organize their collections so they stay tidy. That is a useful skill in itself. Work with your child to find good containers and storage places in your home.
- 4) If appropriate, teach your children to keep records (in a little hobby notebook) of when and where they found something, and what category it might fit.

As their collections grow, invite your children to write about their experiences in the **Our Treasures** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



“My grandson started collecting miniature castles, knights, horses, and dragons when he was about five years old, and his whole room was a magical medieval ‘country.’ He even wrote adventure stories about these figures. The whole family knew what to give him on his birthdays. He’s older now, and in a few years when he goes to college, he thinks he’ll be able to sell these collectibles to help pay for his education!”

— *Grandma Anna*

\*Collecting promotes the English-Language Arts Content Standards skills related to comparing, contrasting, and classifying.

**Next month, go to [www.familylearningjournal.com](http://www.familylearningjournal.com) for a new Family Activity!**

