**Sorting and classifying materials**

Each group was given a selection of materials i.e. paper, plastic, wood, fabric and metal.

**Stage 1**

The children had to sort the materials into the groups above without being given the classifying groups. Each group was given a set time to sort the materials into five particular groups.

**Stage 2**

All the groups were interviewed as to why they chose a particular group to place a particular piece of material.

**Stage 3**

They groups were given a chance to re-group the materials if they wished after visiting other groups to see how they sorted similar materials.

**Stage 4**

Each group was given a set of five labels to place beside their groups.

**Stage 5**

The groups were interviewed again about their sorting and classifying.

**Summary**

Each group had correctly sorted their materials into five groups. They were very clear on which group most materials belonged to. Each group correctly placed the label beside the correct group.

During the interview two groups decided to change a plastic bag from the paper category to the plastic group which was correct.

One material caused confusion for all groups that was the tin foil. They put the piece of tin foil into the paper category. Without any clues or naming any material one child worked out that the tin foil was actually metal and not paper. The other children then concurred with her. All groups then placed the tin foil into the correct metal group.

**Conclusion of activity**

This activity was a continuation from a discussion on materials where the children learned that materials can be classified as solids, liquids or gases.

They then began working with solid materials to sort and classify them.

The children then completed a worksheet on the activity.

All children stated that they learned a lot from the activity.