

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear!

Written By: Tara West





These are counting bears. What do you notice about these bears? Yes, there are some big ones and some little ones. They are also many different colors. Counting bears are a lot of fun. Do you want to learn more about them?



Oh, no! Look at these bears. They look sad. If we play with counting bears, we have to play with them the right way. We do not want the bears to feel sad. How can we play safely with the bears?



I think you are ready for your own counting bears. Are you ready? Remember to take good care of your bears. I will pass out a cup of bears to each of you and give you some time to play and explore with them the safe way. Carefully pour out your cup and explore.



Nice work playing with the bears! Now, what do you notice about these bears? Yes, they are sorted by color. Can you pour out your cup of bears and sort them by color, too? Alright, let's go!



Wow, you did a fantastic job sorting your bears by color! Now, I want you to look at these bears. What do you notice about them? Yes, they are sorted by size. Can you pour out your bears and sort them by size, too?



Look at these bears! It looks like they are in a line, but look closer. What do you notice about their colors? Yes, they are making a pattern. Green, blue, green, blue, green. Can you pour out your bears and try to make a pattern?



You are getting really good at working with counting bears. These bears look like they all made a friend. How many bears are together? Yes, there are two bears in each group. Can you give each of your bears a friend?



These bears are having a meeting. Maybe they are talking about what they want to eat. Look closely at the shape they made. Yes, they made a circle! Can you pour out your bears and make a circle with them?



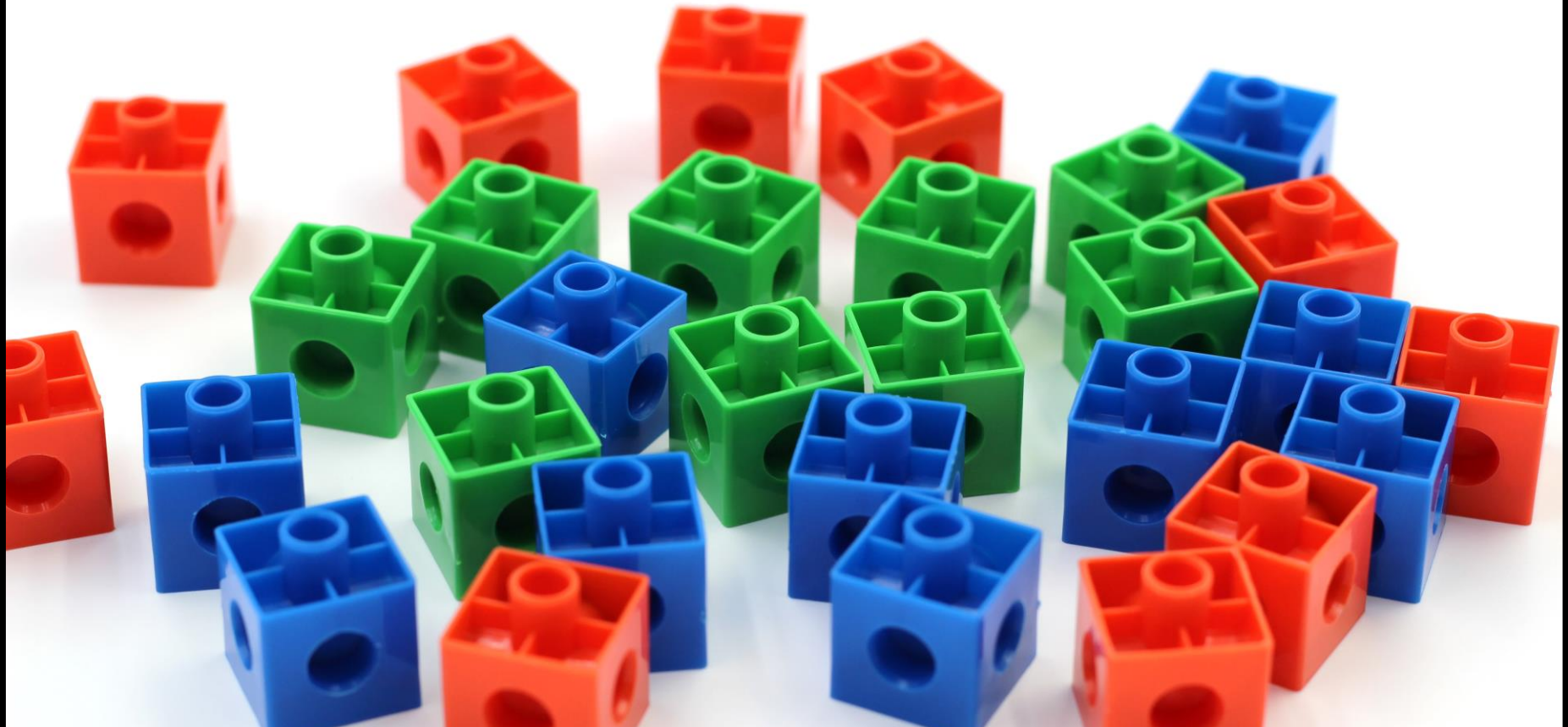
Now we are going to use our cup as a bear den. I will tell you a number of bears that I want you to put inside the den. Okay, put 3 bears inside the den. Now put in 4 bears, 2 bears, 1 bear, 5 bears and, finally, 0 bears in the den.

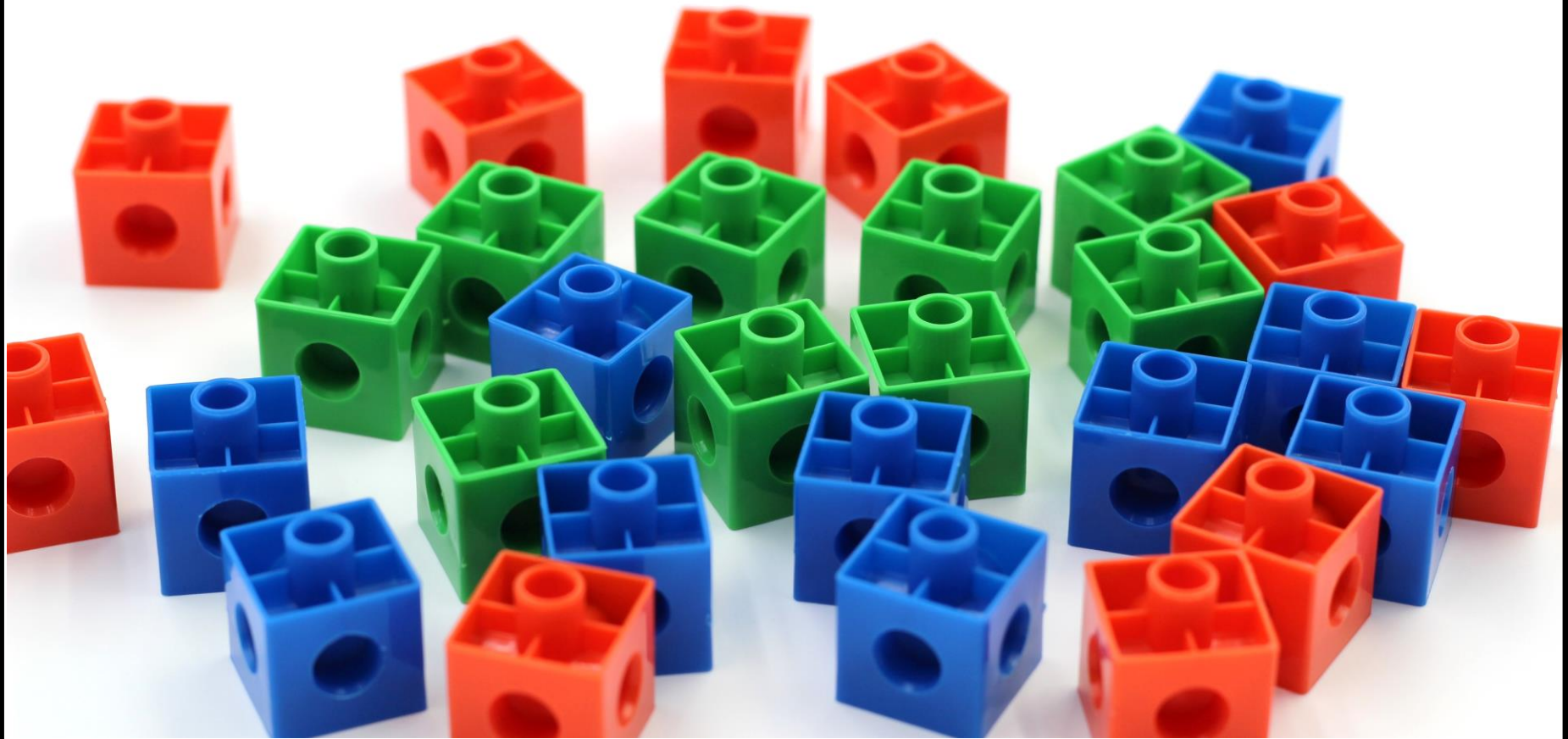


Now you know all the ways you can play with your teddy bears. You also know all the safe ways to play with the bears. Are you ready to go off on your own and explore with the teddy bears? Let's go!

Oh, Snap!

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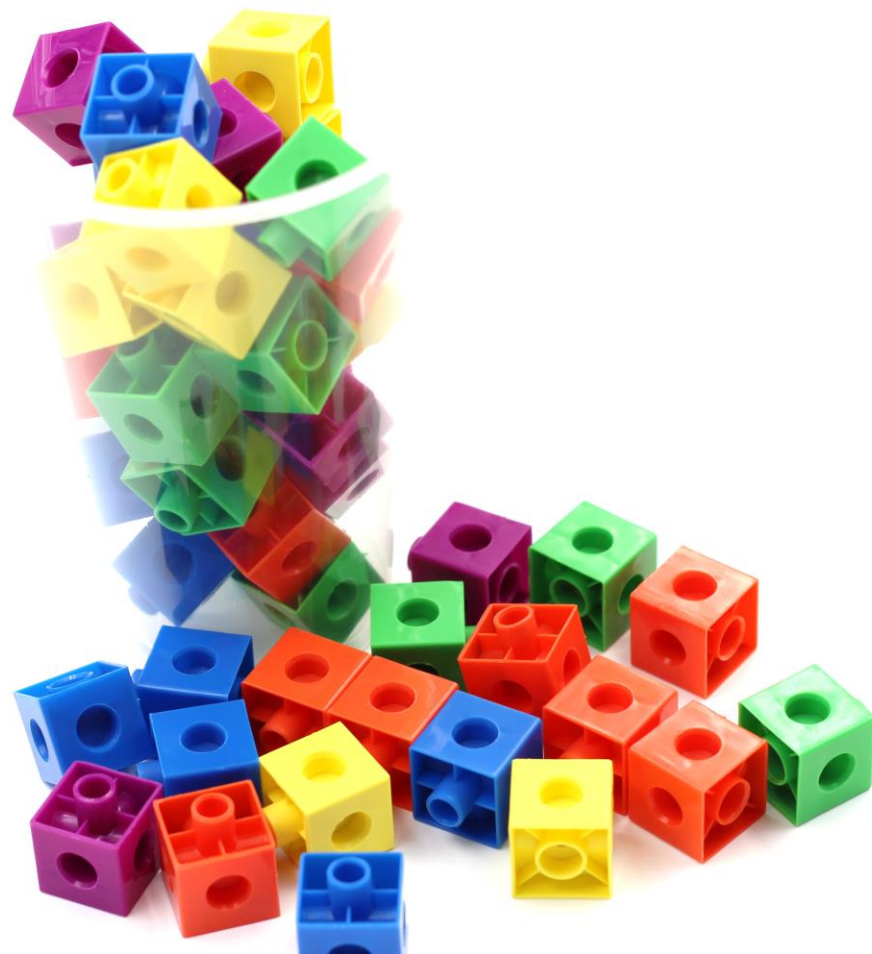




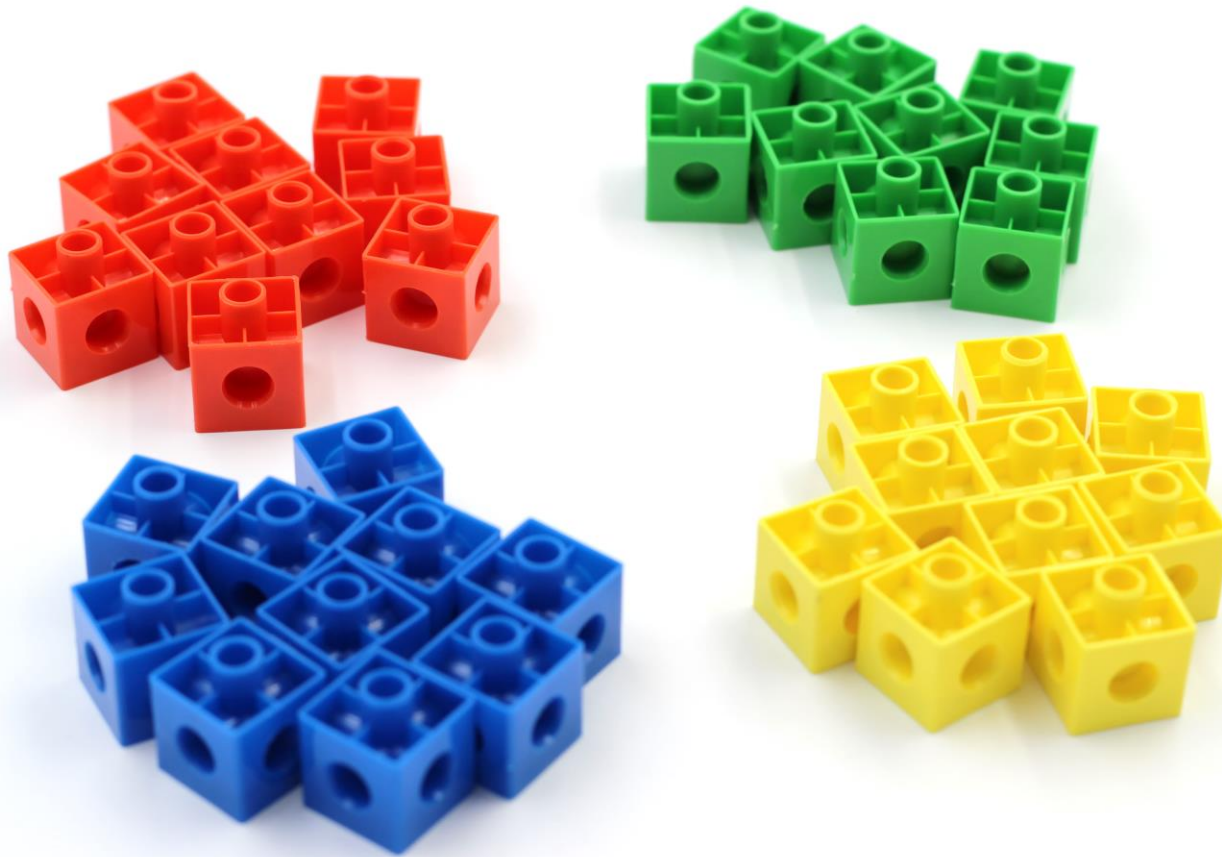
These are snap cubes. What do you notice about these snap cubes? Yes, they are all different colors and have holes in them. Snap cubes are a lot of fun. Do you want to learn more about them?



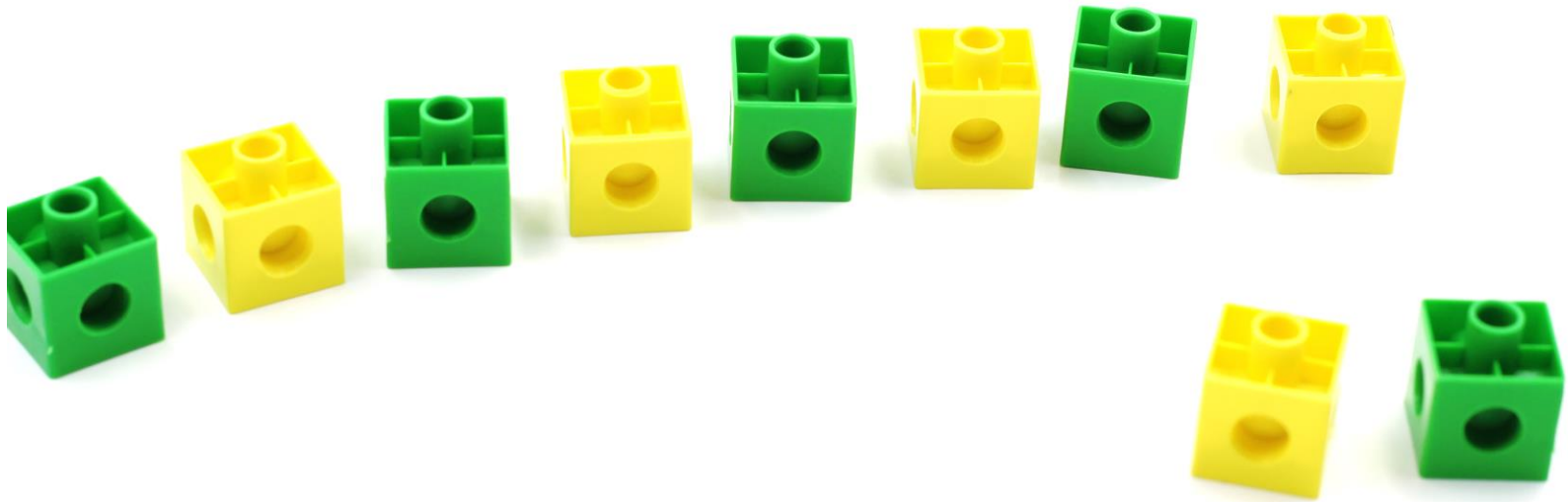
Oh, no! Look at these snap cubes. They look all messy and what is that I see? I see glue and crayons in with the snap cubes. Do you think we need crayons and glue sticks if we are working with snap cubes? No way! We have to play nicely with the cubes. How could we take care of our cubes?



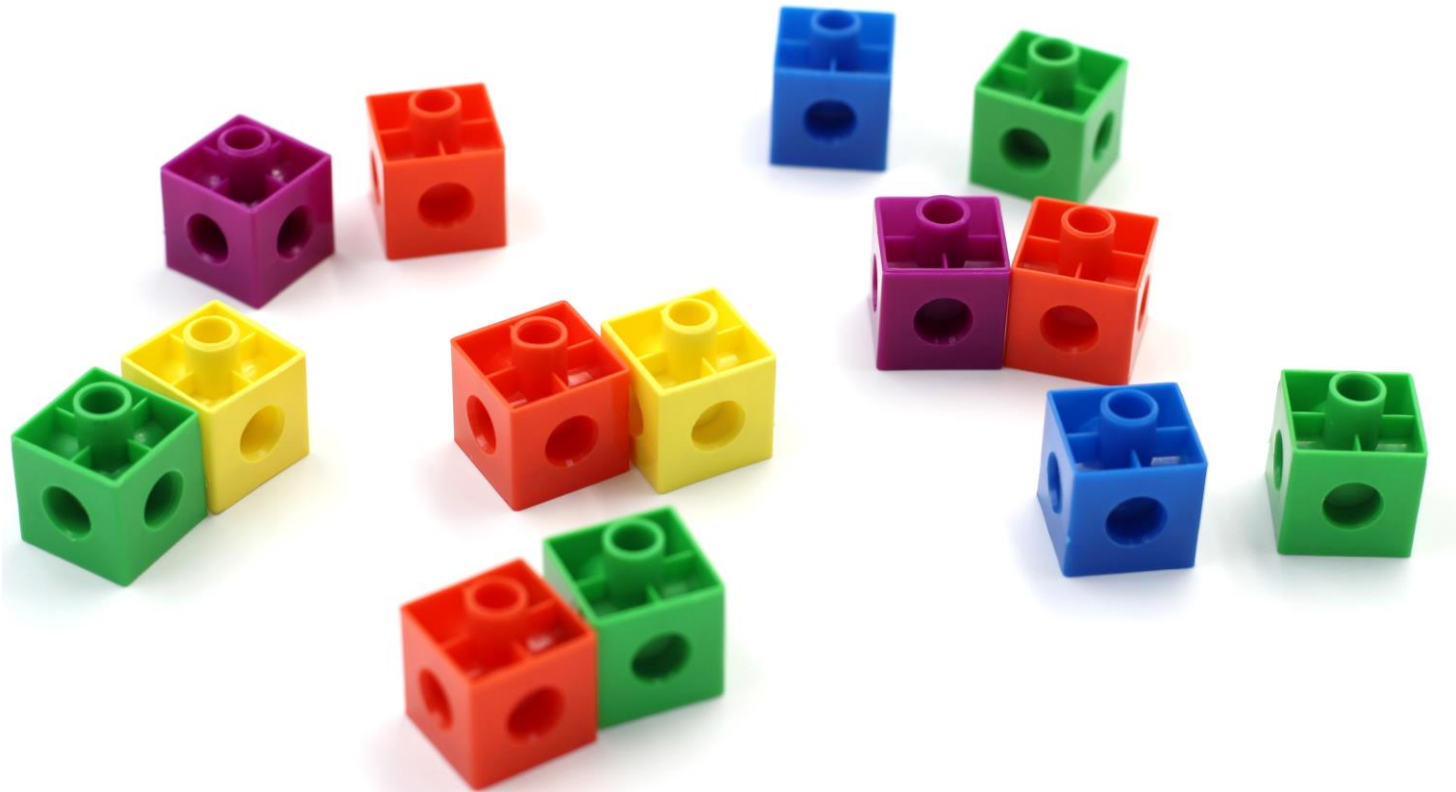
I think you are ready for your own cup of snap cubes. Are you ready to show me how to play with them safely? Remember to take good care of your snap cubes. I will pass out a cup of snap cubes to each of you and give you some time to play and explore with them. Pour out your cup and explore.



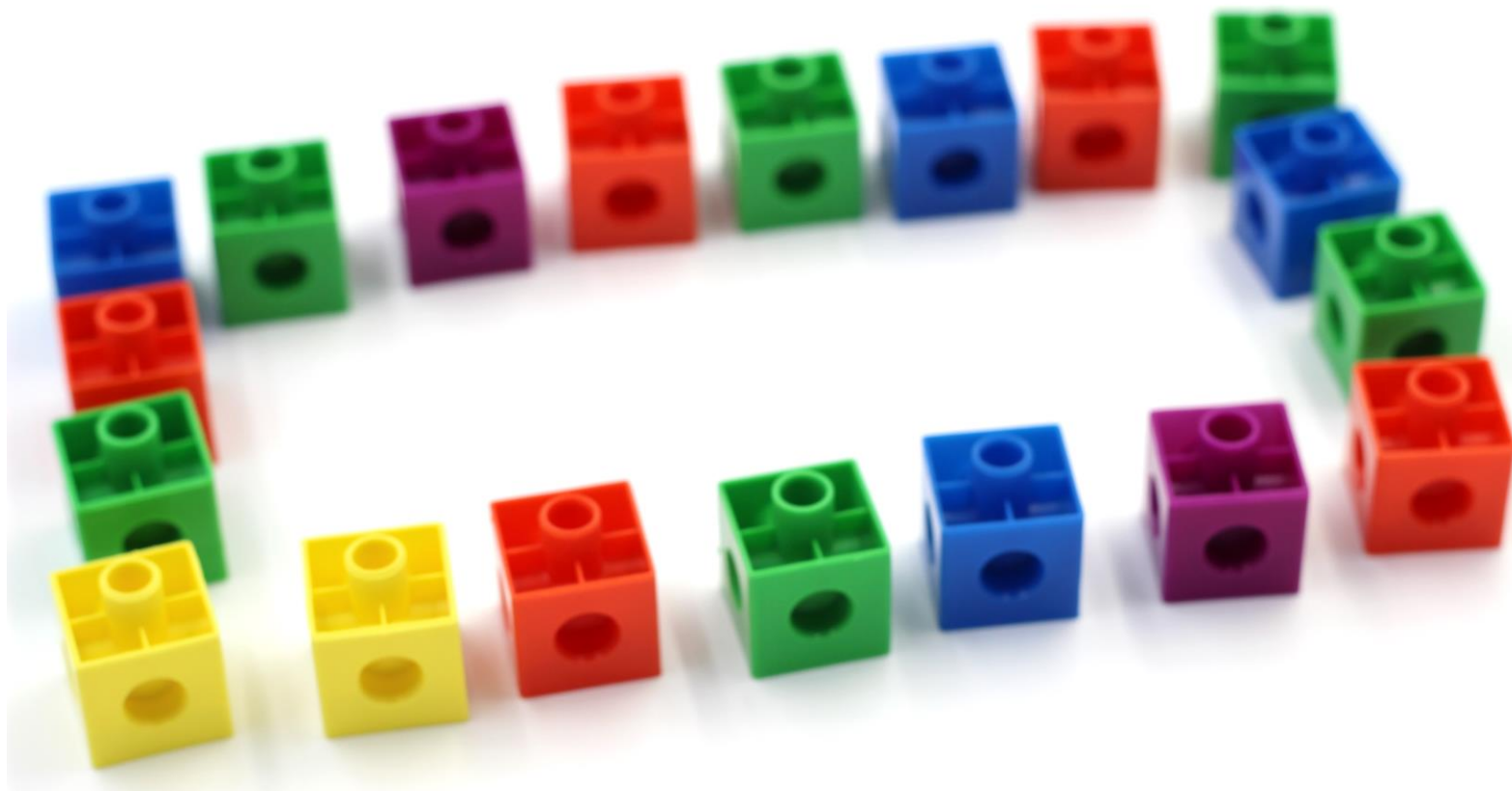
Nice work playing with the snap cubes! Now, what do you notice about these snap cubes? Yes, they are sorted by color. Can you pour out your cup of snap cubes and sort them by color, too? Alright, let's go!



Look at these snap cubes! It looks like they are walking straight. What do you notice about their colors? Yes, they are making a pattern. Green, yellow, green, yellow, green. Can you pour out your cubes and try to make a pattern?



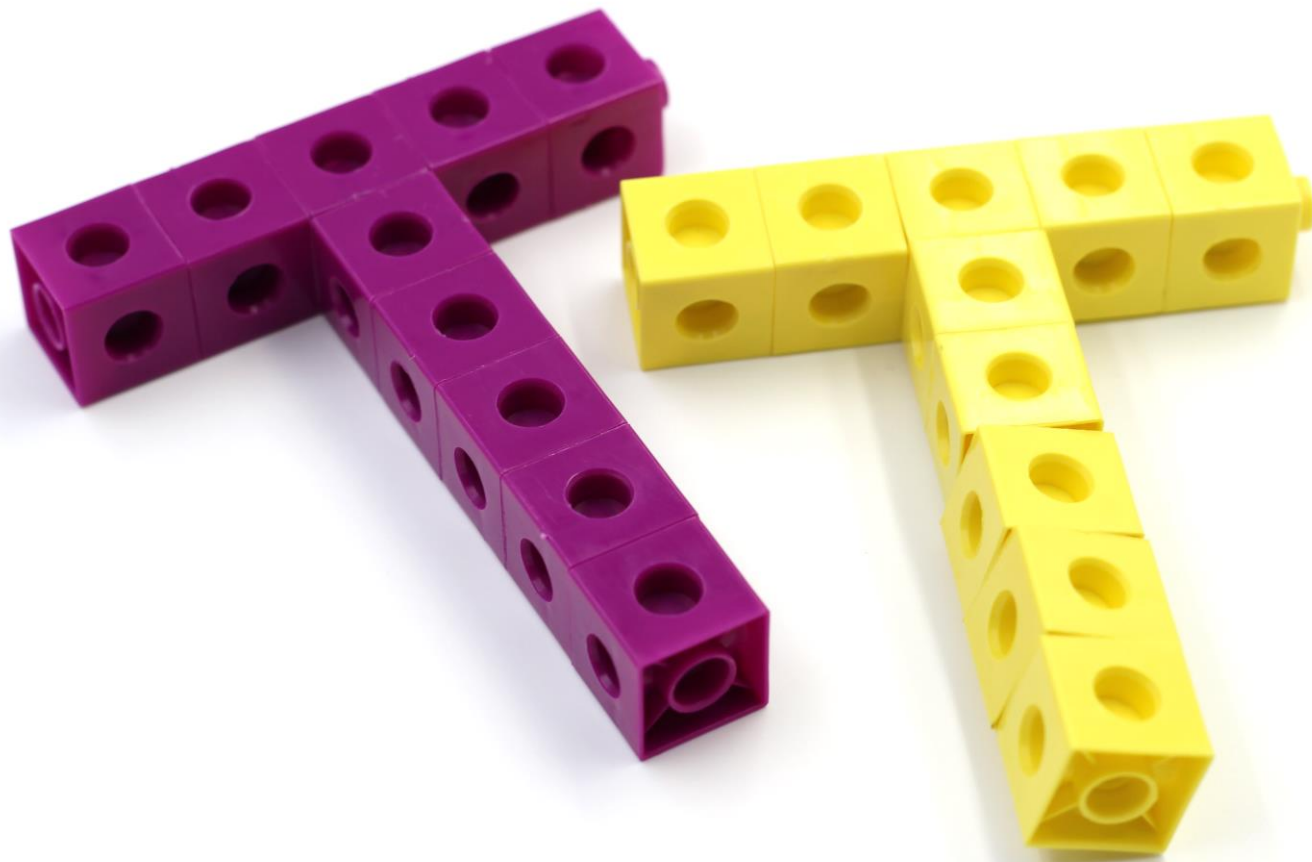
You are getting really good at working with snap cubes. These cubes look like they all made a friend. How many snap cubes are together? Yes, there are two cubes in each group. Can you give each of your cubes a friend?



These snap cubes have made a shape. Look closely at the shape they made. Yes, they made a rectangle! Can you pour out your snap cubes and make a rectangle with them?



There is something else very special about snap cubes! They can all snap together like this. That is what all those holes are for. Take your snap cubes and try snapping them together like this. Sometimes you have to twist and turn them.



Now that you know how to snap your cubes together, I bet you can do this, too. Look at these cubes. What do you notice? Yes, these cubes are making the letter T. Pour out your snap cubes and try to make as many letter T's as you can.



Now you know all the ways you can play with your snap cubes. You also know how to play with your cubes safely. Are you ready to go off on your own and explore with the snap cubes? Let's go!

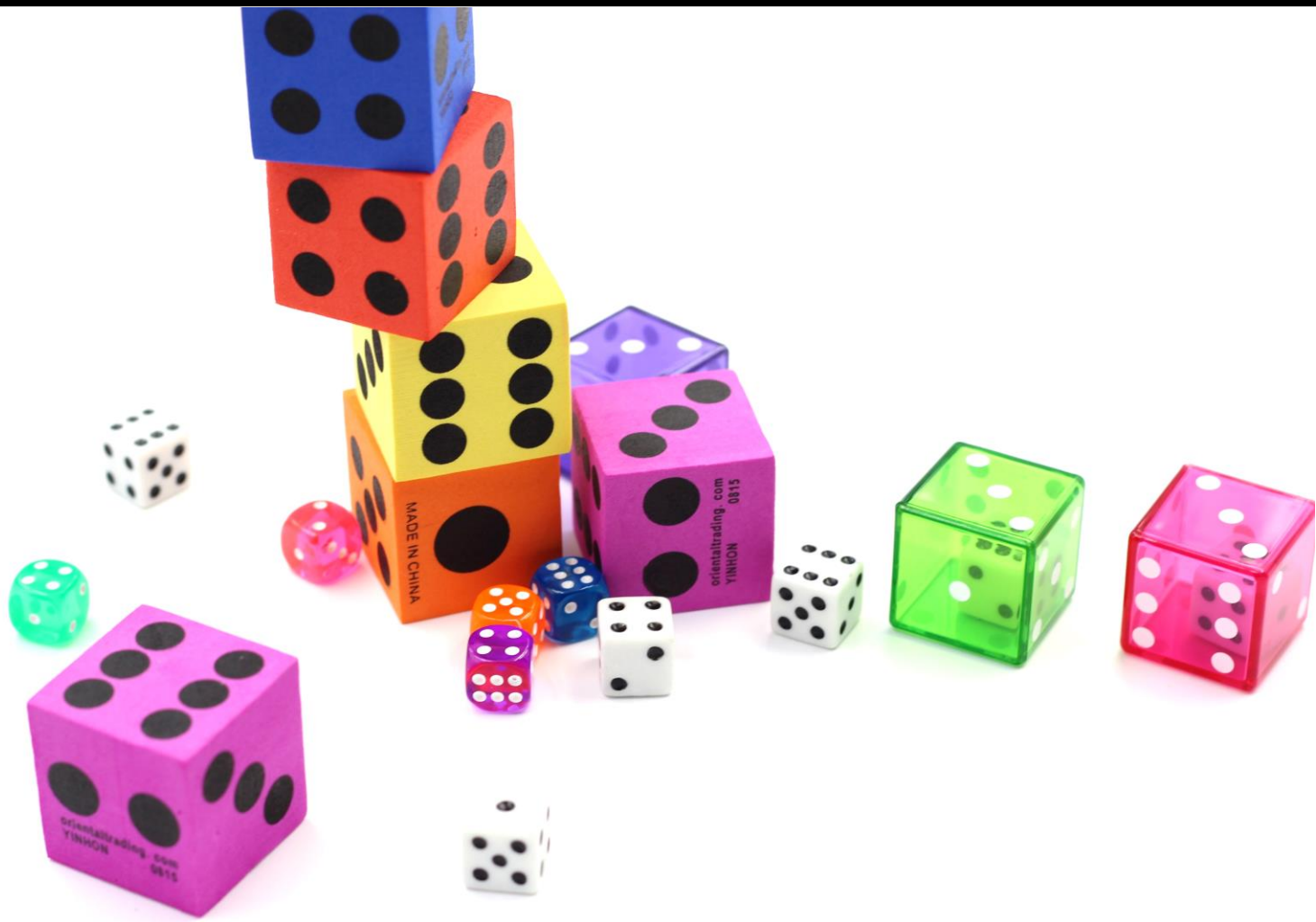
Dot Cubes!

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These are dot cubes. They can also be called dice. What do you notice about these dot cubes? Yes, they are all different colors and sizes. Look closely though. What do all the cubes have on them? Yes, dots!



Look at these dot cubes. They are stacked and scattered everywhere. How do you think we could play with dot cubes safely? What might happen if we are not being safe and careful with the dot cubes?



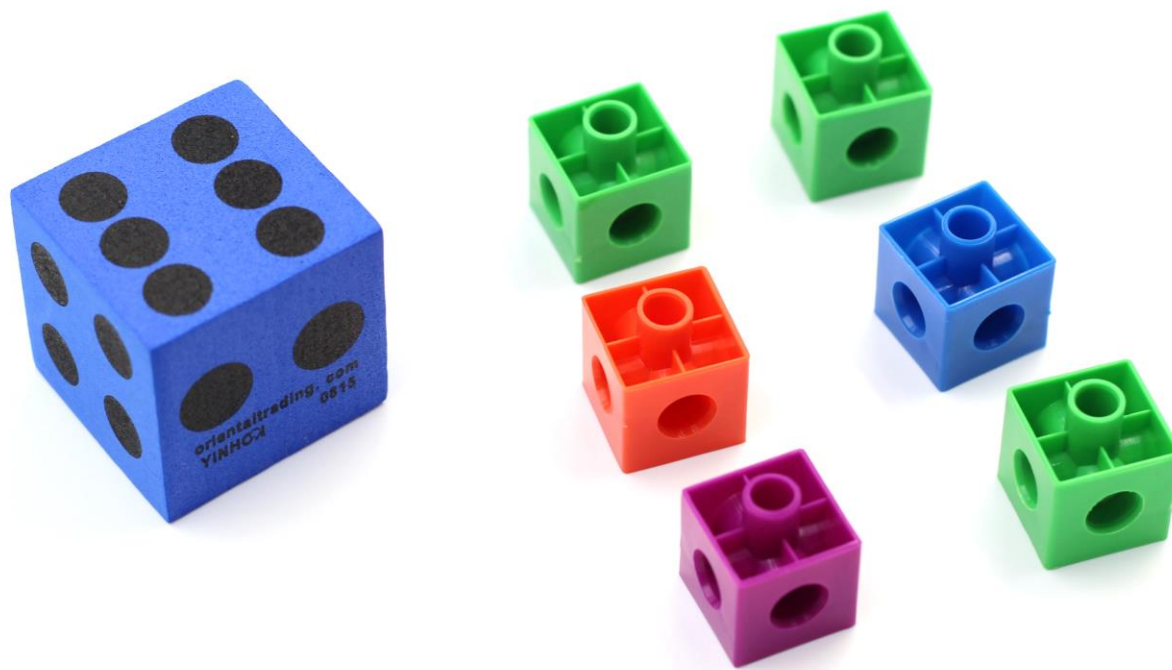
Now we are going to talk about how to safely roll the dot cube. Pretend you are holding a dot cube. Show me how to throw. Oh, my! Scary! Now show me what it would look like to roll the dot cube. Yes, place it in your palm and give it a little toss.



Look at this fancy trick. I put the dot cube inside a small basket so it would not roll off the table or across the room. Do you think this would be a good idea? When you don't have a basket, you can pretend you are still rolling yours in a little space. We don't need to roll our dot cube far away.



Let's talk about each side of the dot cube. Help me count how many dots are on each side. Yes, we can count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Each side of the dot cube is called a face. That sounds silly, huh? Look at your dot cube and count each set of dots.



We will learn a lot this year using dot cubes. Look at this dot cube. How many dots do you see? Yes, 6 dots. Now practice rolling your dot cube and using your snap cubes to make them look just like the dot cube.



Wow! You are getting really good at rolling your dot cubes the safe way. I know you are ready to head off and explore with the dot cubes and snap cubes on your own. You will roll your dot cube and then match it with snap cubes.