

Play-based learning at home

Pattern Making Experience

Why pattern making?

Children can explore their emerging numeracy and literacy skills with this learning experience. Patterning is a basic math skill upon which many mathematical concepts are based. Times tables, addition and skip counting all require an understanding of and proficiency in patterning. In the preschool years, identifying and creating patterns is just the beginning of the mastery of life-long mathematical skills.

It can help:

- Maths concepts – patterns and sequencing, order, counting, space, comparisons, observation, size, quantity – more or less, measurement, shape.
- Concentration to stay at tasks and complete tasks.
- Language and communication skills increasing vocabulary with new words – such as: describing patterns – checkered/stripes/straight/curved; next to; after and before; more and less, using words to label colours/shapes and sizes.

Here's what you'll need:

- Items to make patterns; these can be anything from inside and outside the home. Such as stones, leaves, sticks, spoons/forks, cups/bowls, pencils, crayons, buttons, lego bricks, pegs, lids, even people, etc.
- Space and/or paper to make a grid to support the pattern making concept .

How to start:

- Prepare for the activity by discussing with your child about the concept pattern making and how items are repeated e.g. in a line – cat dog cat dog etc.
- Search for items to use and collect multiples of them.
- Clear space so patterns can be made.

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Here's how to do it:

- Set up all your items ready.
- Make a grid on paper or clear space on a table to create patterns.
- Demonstrate to your child how to make a pattern and begin with only 2 items that can be repeated.
- Once your child can understand how to make patterns, you can increase another colour/type of item; to extend further you can try doubling items within the patterns.
- Be sure to give your child the opportunity to “read” their pattern when it is complete. This will allow them the opportunity to fix any misplaced objects in the pattern.
- Create movement patterns as you move across the back yard or down the street. For example walk, walk, jump; walk, walk, jump. Try any of these movements to add to the fun: skip, run, jog, hop, turn, and sit.
- Search for patterns in the home, in books and outside in nature.
- Celebrate their efforts and what they have achieved.

