



Playing with Patterns

Understanding patterns is a building block for understanding algebra. Patterns are formed when things are repeated a number of times. Figuring out patterns involve seeing relationships and help us understand the underlying structure of things.

Some Books

Pattern Fish, by Trudy Harris

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, by Bill Martin

Caps for Sale, by Esphyr Slobodkina

A Pair of Socks, by Stuart Murphy

Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan

Over in the Meadow, by John Langstaff

Some Activities

1. Talking about the routines of your days helps your child see patterns. It also helps your child learn what to expect and feel a sense of order and security.
2. Sing songs that have phrases that repeat, like *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* or *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*. Encourage your child to sing along on the refrains.
3. Point out patterns everywhere you see them: on clothing, hallways, walls, on buildings, in books. Invite your child to make a pattern with blocks or other toys. Ask them to describe what pattern they made. Cut out two shapes from construction paper and let them glue them in a pattern.
4. Using beads or pasta, help your child make a simple 1-2, 1-2, 1-2 pattern with color or shape. As they get older, kids can use more than two items to create even more complex patterns.
5. Read books about colors and ask your child to find that color around your house. Talk about the colors of objects. You can let your child choose between two colors. "Do you want the yellow sticker or the orange sticker?" "Would you like the green apple or the red apple?"
6. Describe what your child hears and sees and does that relate to pattern:
 - "Look at the traffic light! Yellow, then red, then green. . . yellow, red, green."
 - "Listen to the rhythm of the drums. . . let's try to do that."
 - "You lined up all your blocks. . . one triangle, one square, one triangle. . ."

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Fun with Math & Science

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