

## Patterns

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. Identifying and creating patterns is just the beginning of the mastery of lifelong mathematical skills. It also contributes to broader social development. By understanding patterns, children are able to make predictions about what should come next.

I can...

**Copy a pattern**

**Extend a pattern**

**Create my own pattern**

### Pattern Basics:

- A pattern is only a pattern if it is repeated twice.
- The easiest patterns are those involving two colors or variables (for example, red, blue, red, blue), referred to as an AB,AB pattern. More complex patterns include ABC, ABC; AABB,AABB; AAB,AAB; ABB, ABB; and ABCD,ABCD.
- Be sure to give your child the opportunity to “read” his pattern when it is complete. This will allow him the opportunity to fix any misplaced objects in his pattern.

### Identifying Patterns in Your World:

- Fabrics: Stripes, prints, and plaids often repeat themselves.
- Many shoes have a pattern on the bottom of the sole. Notice shoe tracks when you walk through dirt or make prints with wet soles.
- Nature provides patterns in flower petals, colorful gardens, and even in the coats of animals such as tigers and zebras.

### Create and Extend Patterns:

Provide opportunities for your child to extend a pattern you have started or to create their own pattern using items found around your house such as the following:

- When serving small crackers or cereal that comes in multiple colors, ask your child to create a pattern with her food before eating it.
- String beads or colored cereal into a patterned necklace..
- Use blocks, Legos or other small toys to create patterns across the room.
- Use stickers or rubber stamps to make patterns on paper.
- Create movement patterns as you move across the back yard, down the street or through the park. For example walk, walk, jump, walk, walk, jump.

