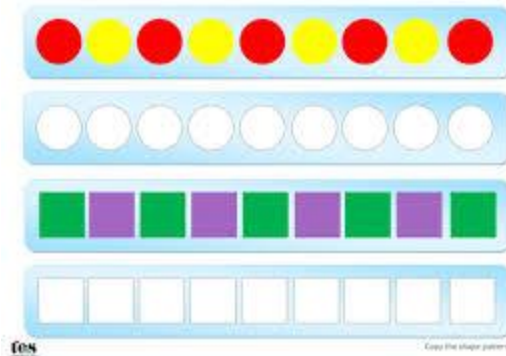


Patterns- for children aged 3+

Mathematical patterns



Patterns are repeating sequences of objects, numbers or events that are arranged in a way following systematic rules. Patterns help us make sense of the world, they provide order and routine. Patterns exist in nature, in music, in words, in our daily routines and in art for example.

There are steps that we need to take to help children understand pattern. To start with we need to help children to recognise a simple sequence of recurring items and understand that this is a pattern.

This is an activity that can be used over a number of days and weeks and will involve many different skills

Activity 1

Potato Prints



Explore pattern making through vegetable prints. Cut a potatoe in half and cut a different shape into each half. Fill a plastic tray with paint and encourage your child to create a pattern with the prints. On paper To start with they might want to just print all over the page , but once they are confident doing this you could encourage them to create a pattern such as square shape circle, square, circle.

You could start by creating a pattern like this and ask your child to copy it and then encourage them to create their own pattern.

Talk about shapes, pattern, repeating, same and different

Activity 2

Loose Parts patterns



If you have created a loose parts box or container take it out and ask your child first to sort the objects so you have the same objects in piles together such as a pile of button and a pile of reels , or a pile of red objects and a pile of blue objects etc.

Talk to your child about making a pattern with the objects on the floor or table such as button , bead, button, bead. You can talk it through as you create it together “Button, bead, button, bead” or “Red , green red, green” etc.

As your child becomes more confident let them create the patterns and name the objects/colours.

Start with a pattern of two objects and once your child can do this easily move to three objects.

Activity 3

Music

Music is all about repeating patterns of sounds. Whether you have musical instruments or not at home you can play with creating musical patterns using your body- body percussion. By the age of three generally children are able to and interested in copying musical patterns. So anytime you are sitting together you can sound out a simple musical pattern such as clap, tap, clap, tap and ask your child to copy it and then you copy back. You can use all parts of your body so clap, tap your head or clap, tickle your toes etc.

As your child becomes more confident with this increase from a pattern of two to three and then four.

Activity 5

Dominoes



Dominoes is a game involving pattern and matching patterns. If you don't have a set of dominoes make your own using card. This great game involves matching patterns, counting and thinking logically and problem solving

Have fun, make these activities fun and help your child to learn at the same time.