

LET'S TALK ABOUT MATH



EVERYDAY FUN WITH PATTERNS

Did you know that your child begins developing early math skills starting at birth—simply through the daily routines and activities you share together? A child's growing ability to notice, create, describe, and predict patterns in the world around them is one of these skills.

From birth to five, children develop an understanding of patterns as they:

- Recognize daily patterns like a familiar bedtime routine or the predictable green, yellow, red of a traffic light;
- Match and sort objects by shape, size or color;
- Create patterns using toys or materials they find in the world in around them;
- Describe the patterns they see and create; and
- Know what comes next in a pattern—placing a blue block on a red-blue-red-blue-red stack.

Young children learn about patterns through play with you. By pointing out patterns you see in the world and making patterns part of playtime, you help your little one learn and practice this important skill.

PARENT-CHILD ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT PATTERN LEARNING

0-12 MONTHS

Establish predictable daily routines for bedtime, meal time and naptime. You might say: "It's time for bed. We'll have milk, a story, and a kiss. Then—bedtime." Loving routines help babies feel safe and secure, and also build an early understanding of patterns

12- 24 MONTHS

Sing songs that have repetitive patterns, such as "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," "Wheels on the Bus," or "Los Cincos Hermanitos." Try rhymes with movement patterns that your child can imitate, like "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" or "Saco Una Manito/Una Manita." Share stories with patterns like Over in the Meadow, The Napping House, or Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?

24-36 MONTHS

Play matching and sorting games during your everyday routines. Your toddler can help sort socks into two piles—little socks for him and big socks for Mommy and Daddy. Then, together, find the matching pairs: "Do you see another sock with red stripes?" When you get home from the supermarket, ask your toddler to put the oranges in one bowl and apples in another.

3-5 YEARS

Make patterns part of the everyday routines you share with your preschooler. Ask him to help you set the table and talk about the pattern of napkin, fork, and spoon. At snack time, see if your preschooler can finish her "snack pattern" of "strawberry, cracker, cheese, strawberry, cracker, and...what comes next?" As you walk to the bus stop, use a big-step, little-step pattern.

YOU CAN FIND MORE TIPS LIKE THESE—AS WELL AS VIDEOS, INFORMATION, AND MORE—AT TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG OR ZEROTOTHREE.ORG.



ZERO TO THREE
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