

Guidance on how you may teach your child complex patterns at home with some activity ideas for both indoors and outdoors...

## Reception - Geometry - Exploring Patterns



# More complex patterns

## Guidance

Children continue to copy, continue and create patterns. They explore patterns which use items more than once in each repeat for example ABB, AAB, AABB, AABBB. Again it is important that each pattern you model has at least three full units of repeat. The more units of repeat, the easier it is to identify and continue the pattern.

Encourage the children to say each pattern aloud and to create patterns around the edge of shapes as well as in straight lines.

## Other Resources



Duck, Duck, Goose circle game

We Will Rock You – Queen (clapping pattern)

AAB Pattern Song – Musical Math (Youtube)

## Prompts for Learning

Note: All the prompts in the previous step for creating patterns with actions and sounds can also be applied to more complex patterns.

Show the children an AB pattern and a similar AAB pattern and ask them to tell you what they notice.

What is the same and what is different?

Here they may describe the yellow, blue pattern or the circle, triangle pattern.



Repeat with a similar ABB pattern. What is different this time?



Ask the children to make their own AB, AAB and ABB patterns using yellow and blue cubes or counters.

What other patterns could they make using two colours?

Ask the children to describe their patterns.

Can their friends continue the patterns they have made?

Encourage the children to make patterns using these structures with different objects both indoors and outside.

## More complex patterns

### Snack

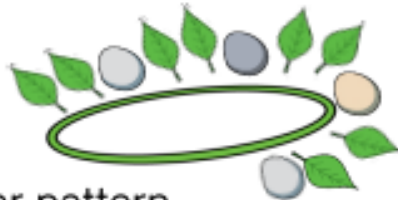
Provide a selection of fruit in small pieces such as grapes, banana slices, apple chunks etc. Allow the children to design their own fruit kebab patterns. Encourage them to compare their kebabs with their friends as they enjoy their tasty treat.



### Enhancements to areas of learning

### Outdoors

Go on a walk around the school grounds and ask the children to hunt for natural objects to make their patterns such as long sticks, short sticks, dandelions, daisies, leaves, pebbles etc. They could arrange their patterns in straight lines or around the edge of a hoop to create a circular pattern.



### Loose parts

Provide the children with a range of loose parts such as buttons, beads, pebbles, shells, or seeds.

They can use these to create a variety of different patterns. You can add variety by providing wavy lines, spirals and zig-zags for them to build their patterns along.



### Musical Instruments

Provide a range of different instruments such as drums, beaters, shakers and encourage the children to play patterns using the instruments. This could be made into a game with one child playing a pattern whilst the rest face the other way.

The listeners then try and work out which instruments were used and replicate the pattern.

