

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

## Reception - Geometry - Exploring Patterns

# Making simple patterns

### Guidance

Children copy, continue and create their own simple repeating patterns. They focus on AB and ABC patterns. It is important to provide patterns with at least three full units of repeat. Encourage the children to say the pattern aloud as this helps them to identify the part which repeats and supports them to continue the pattern.

The children should be given opportunities to explore pattern in a range of contexts including shapes, colours, sizes, actions and sounds. Encourage them to build patterns both vertically and horizontally.

### Other Resources



Pattern Bugs – Trudy Harris

In and Out the Dusty Bluebells circle game

Tongue twister patterns – Red lorry, yellow lorry

Clap your hands and wiggle your fingers song

### Prompts for Learning



Whole class: Demonstrate simple AB action patterns such as:

Knees, clap, knees, clap, knees, clap

Punch left, punch right, left, right, left, right

Hands up, hands down, up, down, up, down



Say the pattern aloud and encourage the children to join in with you and to suggest new action patterns of their own. Once they are confident with AB, extend to ABC e.g. tap knees, tap shoulders, tap head, knees, shoulder, head, etc.

You can also start AB or ABC patterns along a line or around a circle:  
stand, sit, stand, sit, stand, sit

Hands on head, hands down, hands on head, hands down

Arms up, arms out, arms down, up, out, down etc

Word or sound patterns can be chanted together, opposites are good for this e.g. yes, no, up down, in out etc. Sounds learnt in phonics can be practised and reinforced through pattern.

sh, ch, sh, ch, sh, ch etc.



Create simple patterns such as red brick, green brick, red brick, green brick, red brick, green brick for the children to copy and continue.

Challenge them to create their own patterns using the AB or ABC structures.

## Making simple patterns

### Outside

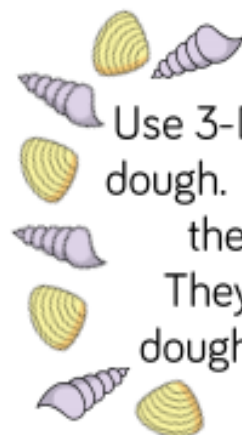
Read *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. Encourage the children to build their own bear hunt journeys using the outside equipment and to repeat the patterned language from the story as they travel through them. They might also invent language patterns of their own.

'Squelch, squerch,  
squelch, squerch'

'Stumble trip,  
stumble trip'

### Maths area

Use the maths resources such as number shapes, dice, cubes, counters, peg boards to make repeating patterns of their own. Can their friends copy and continue their patterns?



### Dough area

Use 3-D shapes to press patterns into the dough. Can their friends tell which shapes they used and copy the patterns?

They can also make patterns on the dough using loose parts such as shells, stones, beads or buttons.

### Enhancements to areas of learning



### Snack

Arrange the snack in simple repeating patterns. Encourage the children to describe and continue the pattern. You can challenge children by adding a deliberate error and asking them to spot and correct it. They could make patterns of their own and challenge their friends to spot their 'mistake'

