

Color Patterns

Targeted skill

Young children learn to continue and create various patterns as they complete this activity.

Materials

- ◆ colored beads, colored blocks, colored adhesive dots, and other suitable items

What to do

Place objects in an AB pattern according to color. For example, you could string beads in a red, blue, red, blue, red, blue pattern. Once you begin the pattern, ask your child to extend it.

When your child feels comfortable creating AB patterns, demonstrate other types of patterns, such as ABB or AABB or ABC. It is not necessary to use colored objects to create patterns. Consider using knives, forks, and spoons from the kitchen.

Extending the activity

When your child feels comfortable creating patterns with colors, explore creating patterns with numbers. For example, write a sequence of numbers that follows a pattern, such as 2, 4, 6, 8 . . . or 3, 6, 9, 12 Ask your child what number comes next. Have him or her explain what the pattern is. (*Counting by twos or threes*)

What your child is practicing

Patterns are an essential part of mathematics. When children are first learning patterning, it is easier for them to extend patterns that you have started than to create them on their own. Each time you introduce a new pattern (AABBCC, ABCDABCD, and so on), begin by starting the pattern and then have your child extend it. Do this several times with each pattern before asking him or her to create a pattern. Learning to recognize and create patterns builds a strong mathematical foundation.