

Find the Pattern



Patterns are everywhere, and you can give your child opportunities to create and play with them. After all, a pattern is as easy as **something that repeats more than once**—like red, blue, red, blue, red, blue. Thinking about patterns helps children make sense of math; it helps them predict what will happen. After just a bit of practice, you'll be amazed at how often your child will find patterns that you don't even see!

IN THE BEDROOM

- When folding laundry with your child, make a pattern with socks. Line them up like this: **big, small, big, small, big, small**. Then, have fun matching the **pairs** of socks together.
- Help your child lay out a **pattern** with her toys—a book, stuffed animal, block, book, stuffed animal, block, etc. Then **count** the number of toys all together and repeat the last number as you say, "So we have (total number of) toys on the floor."

GETTING DRESSED

- When you help your child get dressed, help him **count** the items of clothing he is putting on (one shirt, two socks, etc.). Do any of them have a pattern?

AT PLAYTIME

- Help your child make a **pattern** with his crayons. Place one pointing up, the next pointing down, etc. As you make the pattern, ask, "**What comes next?**"
- String pieces of macaroni into a beautiful patterned necklace. Place a **big** piece, another **big** piece, and then a **small** piece on the string. Repeat with more **big, big, small** pieces to create a pattern. When the necklace is complete, **count** the number of "beads" on the necklace.
- **Grow a pattern!** Put **one** object on the table. Below that object, put **another** object on the table and have your child place **one** object next to it. Below that row, put **two** objects in a row, then ask your child to **add one more** to the row. Below that row, put **three** objects in a row, then have your child **add one more**. Ask, "How many do you think will be in the next row? Let's find out!"



This tipsheet is an excerpt from "Talking is Teaching: Let's Talk About Math," a fun filled activity book to introduce early math concepts and words to your child, available at talkingisteaching.org/highlights-math-guide.

SO SMALL TO FAIL



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