

Today's Topics: Patterns

Overview and Things to Know:

Patterns help children make sense of structures and regularities in their environment. This discovery of patterns, predicting them, copying them and creating them is a component of algebraic thinking for children, which is not the algebra of our teenage years or x y equations, but the logical connections and reasoning skills these help develop.

Activities We Did:

- Listening and acting out Patterns
- Helping finish patterns
- Sorting and creating patterns with manipulatives

Things to Try at Home:

Children need your help to explore, experiment and discover. Practice recognizing patterns in everyday life. Help your child point out patterns in clothing, toys, anywhere. Don't forget about sound patterns. The environment constantly exposes young children to regularities of various types: in music, shirts, dance, shape, and spatial relations. Given these experiences, children will develop an intuitive understanding of pattern.

Songs to Listen to:

- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- If You're Happy and You Know It [Clap Your Hands]

If You Want to Dive Deeper:

Children see mathematical patterns in art, music, language, space, shape, and number. They frequently engage in patterned activities like singing, dancing or making designs and block constructions. Parents and grownups can help children to extend their relatively unsophisticated knowledge of mathematical patterns using art, music, and action. They can also help children explore important patterns in mathematics itself. Engaging in meaningful thinking about pattern is a first step on the road towards algebraic thinking. The study of pattern can be a joy for both parents/grownups and children.

Books to Check Out

For the Pre-Kindergartners

