



LET'S TALK PATTERNS!

DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD



ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY:

Encourage your child to use beads and string to create simple patterned sequences, like ABABAB or ABBABB.

As your child strings beads, encourage them to follow the order of the pattern, notice what repeats, and check whether the sequence is correct or needs fixing.

Help your child learn that patterns follow predictable steps that can be repeated again and again.

STEM LEARNING AREAS:

Computational Thinking: Concepts involved in programming computers and coding.

Math: Concepts related to numbers, patterns, shapes, and space, and how to use them to solve problems

- **Patterns:** Things that repeat or change in a regular way, like colors, sounds, or movements happening again and again

WHAT DO I NEED?:

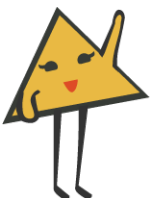
- ABAB necklace
- Non-patterned necklace
- String
- Beads of two colors

WHAT CAN I TALK ABOUT?:

- Patterns
- Colors
- Sequence
- Predict
- Repeat

WHAT CAN I ASK?:

- What is the same about these beads? Different?
- What colors do you see?
- What other patterns can you make with these beads?





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ADAPTATIONS FOR DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested playtime activity. These are only suggested activity adaptations. Consider consulting your child's care team first.



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.

ENVIRONMENT

- If possible, limit background noise & distractions
- Use modified or flexible seating
- Place materials on an anti-slip mat or in a container or tray within reach

MATERIALS

- Have child's assistive technology ready and available, including augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) device
- Use materials that are easier to grasp and manipulate
- Use materials with contrasting colors and sizes so that children can differentiate
- Use stabilizing mats or Velcro for lining up contrasting materials in patterns
- Provide materials with different sizes, textures, and colors
- Use some of your child's favorite objects and toys when making patterns

INSTRUCTION

- Use a variety of methods of communication (sign language, gestures) to meaningfully engage children
- Use pictures and icons to signal next steps (see following page for an example) or each step of the sequence
- Provide prompts and modeling to help the child create a patterned sequence and help the child imitate
- Narrate and sign your child's actions
- Allow longer waiting time for child to respond and process this activity
- Start with short patterns and gradually build them into larger patterns



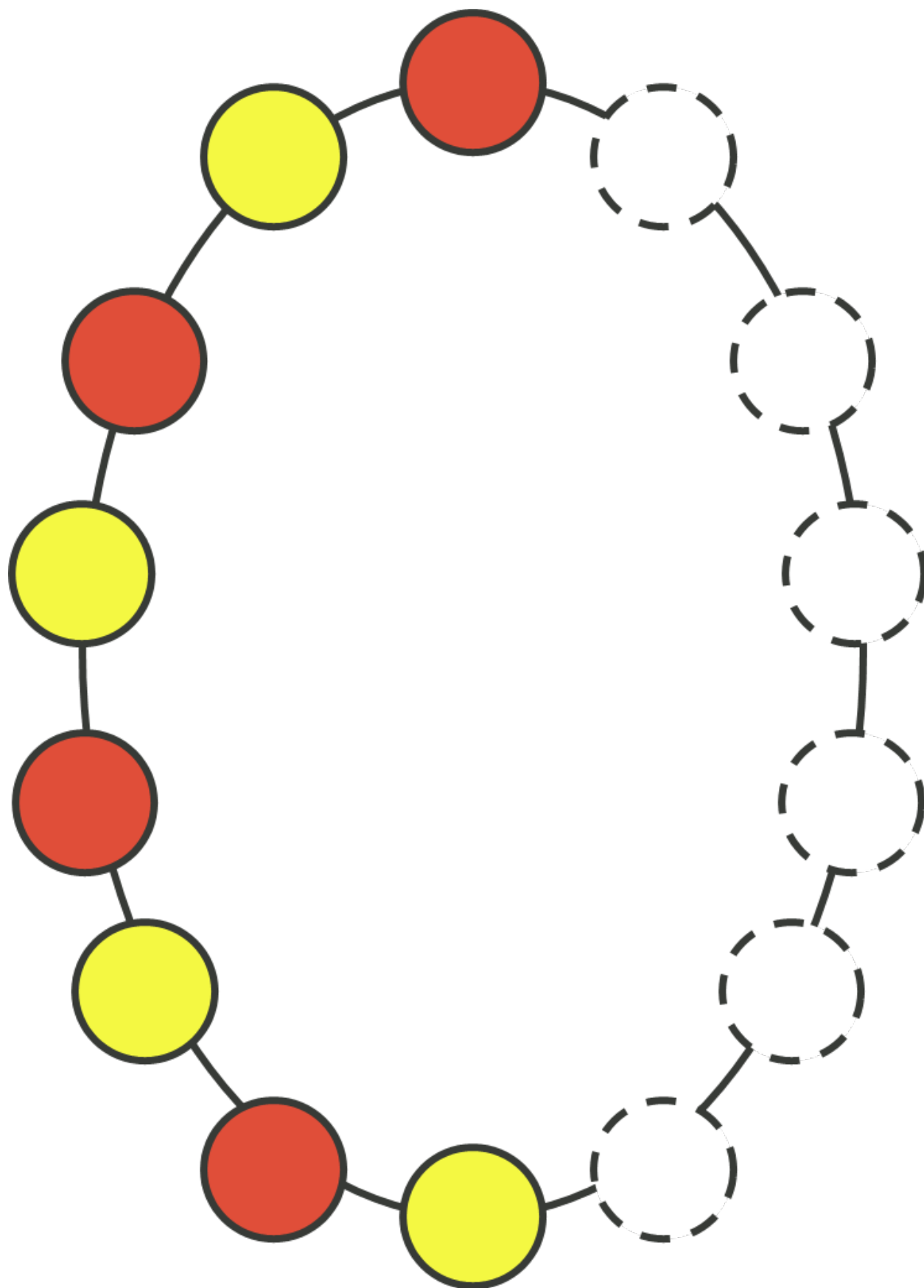
Need visual cues?

Visit [STEMIE's Visual Cue Library](#) or check out STEMIE's tips for creating and using visual supports with [A Guide to Visual Supports](#).



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VISUAL CUES FOR DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD





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ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- Use the created necklaces as a code for different movements (smile, fist bump, hug) and act out the pattern.
- Help your child notice patterns in their favorite songs and books. Your child can use this information to predict what comes next in the pattern. Then check if they were right.
- Collect objects on a nature walk or out in the community at parks or museums and make patterns out of the objects.
- Help your child document patterns they create in a "pattern book" or something similar.
- Check out our [Storybook Conversations](#) for *I See Patterns* by Linda Benton
- Check out our [Discovery Play Activities](#) for Lego Block Coding and Patterns in Nature
- Check out these great books about patterns:
 - *Pattern Breakers* by Daniel Finkel
 - *My First Book of Patterns* by Bobby & June George
 - *Pitter Pattern* by Joyce Hesselberth

