

LET'S TALK PATTERNS!

DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested play activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



STEM Concept(s): Patterns, Sequencing

Help your child recognize **patterns**, such as a **sequence** of colors on a striped shirt or a bumblebee, in their natural environments.

Patterns are when something repeats in a predictable manner, like oceans tides and the seasons.

Help your child recognize and duplicate **patterns**, such as ABABAB or ABBABB, by using beads with shoestring to make necklaces.

STEM IDEAS/WORDS

- Pattern/Sequence
- Predict
- Colors
- Repeat
- Observe/Notice

MATERIALS

- Striped shirt
- Bumblebee picture
- ABAB necklace
- Non-patterned necklace
- String
- Beads of two colors

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

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



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ADAPTATIONS

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



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.

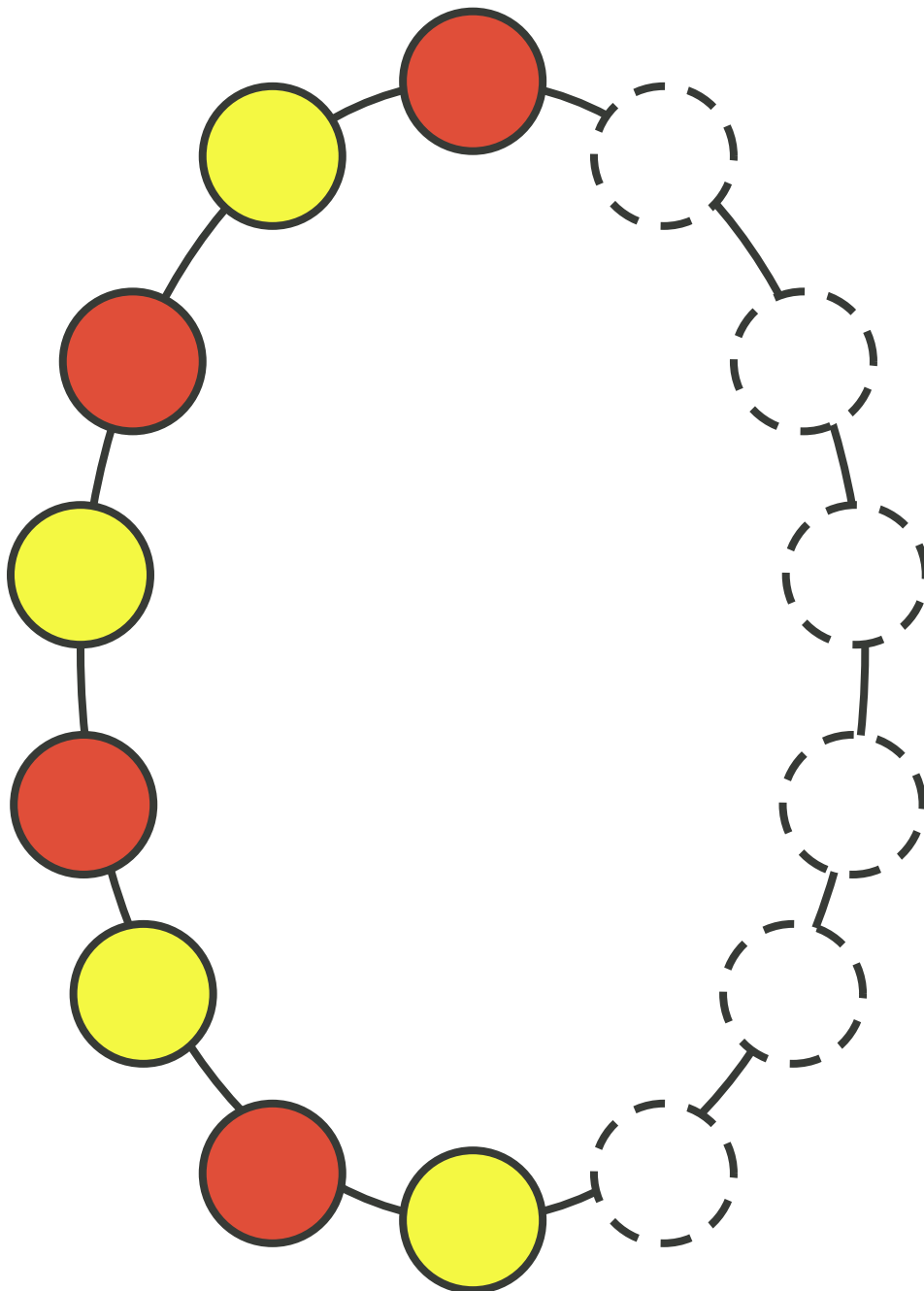


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WHAT COMES NEXT?



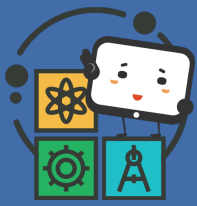
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

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- Have the created necklaces mean movements (smile, fist bump, hug) and act out the pattern
- Help your child notice patterns in their favorite songs and/or books. Your child can use this information to predict what comes next in the pattern(s). 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 Exploration Ideas & Adaptations for Patterns in Nature
- Check out our Storybook Conversations for *I See Patterns* by Linda Benton
- Check out our Discovery Play Activities – Lego Block Coding
- Check out these great books about the patterns:
 - *Pattern Breakers* by Daniel Finkel
 - *My First Book of Patterns* by Bobby & June George
 - *Pitter Pattern* by Joyce Hesselberth

