Patterns

Patterns organize individual objects into an ordered group. Learning about patterns helps children understand the relationship of parts to a whole, an important mathematical skill.

Patterns at Home

Have your child tell you about patterns that can be found at home. For example, “The stripes on these pajamas are red stripe, blue stripe, white stripe, red stripe, blue stripe, white stripe,” or “The checks on the tablecloth are red, white, red, white.”

Making Patterns

Have your child use different beans, colored blocks, colored beads, or paper squares to create patterns. Take turns making patterns, such as 1 red, 2 blue, 1 red, 2 blue, and having the other person tell what comes next in pattern. As your child becomes comfortable with this, make patterns that are more difficult, such as 2 yellow, 1 red, 2 blue, 2 yellow, 1 red, 2 blue.

Sound Patterns

Listen to a sound pattern and then repeat it. An example is clap-snap-clap, clap-snap-clap. Take turns making the patterns using your feet, hands, or other objects.

Magazine Patterns

Look at magazine pictures and try to find patterns in things like clothing or food. Cut out the pictures and make a pattern scrapbook.

Books to Read

Here are some books you may want to read together:

- *Spotty, Stripy, Swirly: What are Patterns?* by Jane Brocket
- *The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle
- *Pattern Bugs* by Trudy Harris
- *Pattern Fish* by Trudy Harris
- *Beep Beep Vroom Vroom* by Stuart Murphy