

# Dance Patterns!

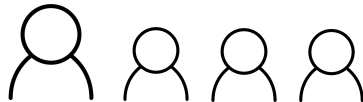


2-6 players

Ages 3+

5-10 minutes

Materials: bodies



Goal of the game:

to recognize a  
pattern and predict  
what comes next

VOCABULARY words:

pattern  
repeat  
before  
after

QUESTION prompts:

What was the  
pattern I made?  
How did you know  
what came next?

Setup:

Move to an area where you and children can move freely

Play:

Begin doing a simple movement pattern, such as: stomp, clap, stomp, clap, stomp, clap...



Have children join in making the movements as soon as they recognize the pattern.



Once most children have joined in, say, “freeze!” and have children freeze in place.

Ask, “What movement comes next?” Wait for children to say or demonstrate the next movement in the pattern.

Continue to play using different movement patterns. You can include: touching your toes, touching your head, reaching your hands in the air, putting your hands on your hips, and jumping on one foot or two feet!

What children are learning:

- This game is a fun way to *feel* patterns. When you ask, “what comes next?,” you are helping children recognize a pattern’s repeating units.
- For a higher challenge, make a “mistake” (e.g., stomp, clap, stomp, clap, stomp, stomp). See if children catch your mistake and ask them to correct it!