

Copy My Pattern



2-6 players

Ages 2+

5-10 minutes

Materials:

Pattern blocks or paper shape cut-outs



Any pattern templates



Goal of the game: to recognize a shape pattern and copy it

Setup:

1. Choose a pattern template. Or, create your own simple repeating pattern (e.g., circle, square, circle square).
2. Place the rest of the pattern blocks or shaped materials in a pile.
3. Place your pattern down in front of children. If necessary, tape your template or pattern pieces to a surface to prevent sliding.

Play:



Say, "Here is my pattern! Let's say the pattern together."



Together, chant, "triangle, square, triangle, square, triangle, square, triangle, square." Point to each shape as you say its name.

Say, "Now it's your turn. Can you copy my pattern? Use this pile of shapes to copy my pattern."

Wait for children to copy your pattern. If needed, allow them to put their pattern directly underneath yours, matching the shapes with 1:1 correspondence.



Say, "Yes, you copied my pattern!" Chant the pattern together, pointing to each shape as you say its name.

Continue playing with different patterns. When children are ready, have them choose a pattern template or make their own pattern for others to copy.

Variation: Have children extend your pattern! Allow them to build onto your pattern instead of copying it:



What children are learning:

- Young children are just beginning to understand that a pattern repeats; the same unit occurs over and over (e.g., ABAB/triangle, square, triangle, square).
- When children create patterns, they may not follow a repetition rule at first. Remind them that patterns must repeat and point out the repeating unit.