

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

VOCABULARY words:

pattern
repeat
square
triangle

QUESTION prompts:

What is a pattern?
What is my pattern?
How did you find out
what my pattern is?

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:



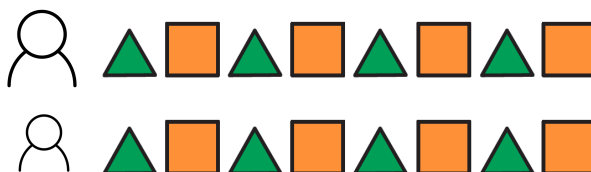
Say, "Here is my pattern! Let's say the pattern together."



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.

Dance Patterns

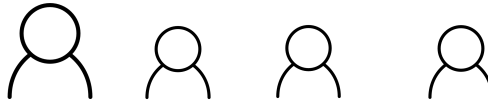


2-6 players

Ages 3+

5-10 minutes

Materials: bodies



GOAL of the game:

to recognize a body
movement pattern
and predict what
comes next

VOCABULARY words:

pattern
repeat
before
after

QUESTION prompts:

What did you notice
about the pattern I
made?

How did you know what
came next?

Setup:

Move to an area where you and children can move freely



Play:

Say, "I'm going to use my body to make a pattern! Watch the movements that I make. Once you notice the pattern, use your body to make the same pattern as me."

Move your body in a simple A/B pattern, such as: stomp, clap, stomp, clap, stomp, clap...



Wait for children to recognize the pattern and join in. You can chant, "stomp, clap, stomp, clap" as you go to help children recognize and say the pattern.



Once most children have joined in, say, "freeze!" and have the 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. As children are ready, use more complex patterns, like an A/B/C pattern (clap, hop, stomp, clap, hop, stomp).

You can also try: 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 for children to *feel* and *say* patterns.
- Asking, "what comes next?" directs children's attention toward the pattern's repeating unit.
- For a higher challenge, make a "mistake" in your body movement pattern! For example, stomp, clap, stomp, clap, stomp, stomp. See if children can catch your mistake and ask them to fix it using their body movements.

Top My Design



2-6 players

Ages 2+

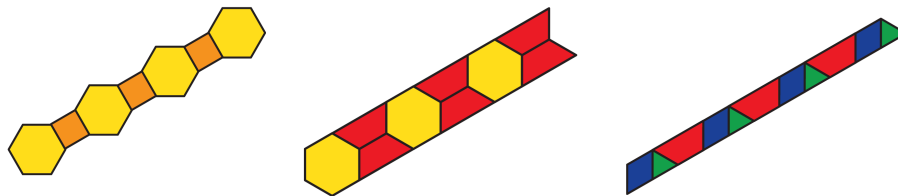
5-10 minutes

Materials:

Pattern blocks



Pattern block templates



Goal of the game:
to match pattern
blocks to a template
with 1:1
correspondence

VOCABULARY words:

pattern
top
match
hexagon (*any shape*)

QUESTION prompts:

What is a pattern?
Are these patterns
the same or
different?

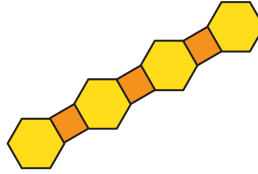
Setup:

1. Choose a pattern block template
2. Place the pattern blocks in a pile
3. Place the template down in front of children. If necessary, tape the template to a surface to prevent sliding.

Play:

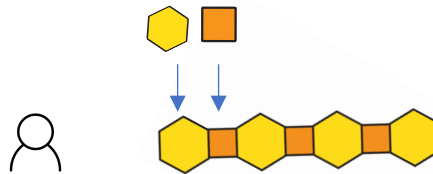


Together, chant the pattern shapes. Point to each shape as you say its name.



“Hexagon, square, hexagon, square...”

Have children place matching pattern block shapes directly on top of the pattern template.



Once children have completed the pattern, have them say the pattern and point to each shape as they say its name.

Continue playing with different patterns. When children are ready, have them *extend* the pattern by building onto it instead of copying it:



What children are learning:

- This activity helps children understand what a pattern is. Patterns follow certain rules — something must repeat in a regular way. It could be hexagon, square, hexagon, square; red, yellow, red, yellow; or A,B,A,B.

Crafts Shop



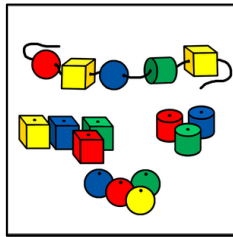
2-6 players

Ages 4+

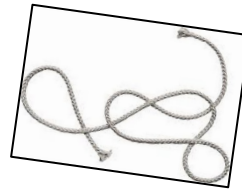
10-15 minutes

Materials:

Stringing beads



Pipe cleaners, yarn, or string



GOAL of the game:

to recognize a
pattern of beads and
copy it

VOCABULARY words:

pattern
beside
between
repeat

QUESTION prompts:

What is the pattern
rule?

How did you know
what the pattern is?

Setup:

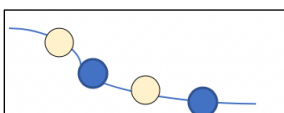
1. Set up a “Crafts Shop” as a center time activity by putting all of the game materials on a table or other flat surface
2. Using the stringing beads and pipe cleaners, yarn, or string, make several examples of AB, ABB, and AABB patterns for children to copy. Make more complex patterns as children are ready.

Play:

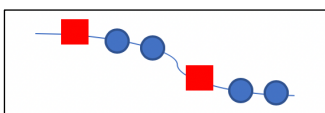


Say, “We are going to make crafts to sell to customers at our Crafts Shop!” Show children the AB, ABB, and AABB patterns that you made.

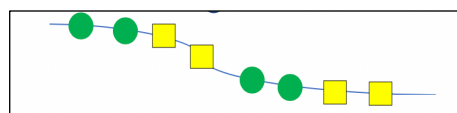
ABAB



ABBABB



AABBAABB



Say, “Can you use these beads and string to copy the patterns that I made? We will sell your patterns at the shop.”

Have children make new crafts by copying the patterns. Once children are ready, have them design their own bead patterns to sell to customers at the Crafts Shop.

Variation: Make growing patterns and symmetrical patterns for children to copy.

What children are learning:

- This activity is a fun way for children to practice copying and creating patterns
- Copying patterns helps children to understand what patterns are. It also helps them to identify and understand pattern rules (the repeating pattern unit).
- As children work on their patterns, remember to ask, “What comes next?” and “How do you know?”