



## Learning about Patterns

**Level:** K-1

**Vocabulary:** repeat, same, continue, attribute

**Materials:** pencil and paper, possibly beads

### 1<sup>st</sup> Activity: Patterns with Sounds

Start a simple problem with your child, like stomp-clap. Have your child repeat the pattern with you. Then change the pattern, like stomp-clap-clap. Encourage your child to make up a pattern for you to follow. Talk about what makes a pattern (a repeated set of the same items in the same order).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Activity: Patterns all Around Us

Talk with your child about everyday sets that are patterns. You might use the days of the week or the months of the year or the seasons. Talk about why those are patterns (like sets that repeat). You might then talk about time, especially if you have access to an analog clock (as opposed to a digital one). Digital clocks repeat, but it's not as easy to see how or why.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Activity: Patterns with Letters or Beads

Make up a pattern with two or three letters and have your child repeat the pattern. Then have your child make up a pattern that you can repeat. You can do the same thing with beads or any set of multi-colored objects. As an extension, you can make up a series that form a repeated pattern, except one piece of the pattern is wrong. Then ask your child to identify the mistake, correct it and explain how he/she corrected the mistake in the pattern.