

Numeracy & Mathematics – January to March 2019

Our numeracy focus over the next couple of months will be spotting and exploring patterns in the world around us and creating our own patterns using a range of media.



The Importance of Pattern

Having a good understanding of pattern is important for identifying many different kinds of mathematical relationships. It underpins memorisation of counting sequences and understanding number operations, for instance recognising that if you add numbers in a different order their total stays the same.

Ways to explore pattern at home and outdoors

By taking the time to notice and identify patterns with your child, they will begin to see and identify them as well. Be on the lookout for some of these patterns as you go through your day:

Spotting Patterns

- Many patterns can be found in the fabric used to create clothing. Stripes, prints, and plaids often repeat themselves providing many opportunities for identifying patterns as you go through the day.
- Many shoes have a pattern on the bottom of the sole. Notice shoe tracks when you walk through dirt or make prints with wet soles.
- Nature provides patterns in flower petals, colourful gardens, and even in the coats of animals such as tigers and zebras.
- Once children are aware of patterns they will begin to see them in everything. They might notice that breakfast is served in a pattern: yogurt, eggs, pancakes; yogurt, eggs, pancakes or that they have school one day, and stay home the next. Do you have patterns in your weekly schedule or daily routine? Help your child become aware of your everyday patterns.
- When you go to the supermarket notice patterns in the food displays, display cases, and even the floor tiles.

Copying and Creating Patterns

Provide opportunities for your child to extend a pattern you have started or to create their own pattern using items found around your house such as the following:

- String beads or coloured cereal into a beautiful patterned necklace for hands-on pattern work.
- Use blocks, Legos or other small toys to create patterns across the room. The longer you make it, the more fun it is
- Use stickers, rubber stamps, fruit and veg to make patterns on paper.
- Create movement patterns as you move down the street or through the park. For example walk, walk, jump; walk, walk, jump. Try any of these movements to add to the fun: skip, run, jog, hop, turn, and sit.