

# Family Focus

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## *Math at Home*

**Understanding patterns** gives children an opportunity to see the relationships between items. The ability to recognize and create patterns helps children make predictions based on observations; which is an important skill in math. Understanding patterns will help children learn complex number concepts and mathematical operations.

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**AB Pattern** An AB pattern is when you do one thing such as clapping and then switch to another such as tapping your knees. Show your child this simple pattern can they repeat it? Encourage them to make an AB pattern of their own. As they master this challenge them to add more movements in their pattern and have you repeat the pattern back to them.

- People Pattern by Nathan Olson
- Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes by Stephen R. Swinburne
- Teddy Bear Patterns by Barbara Barbieri McGrath
- Patterns at the Museum by Tracey Steffora

**Color Pattern** Collect objects that will fit in the ice cube tray sections such as pom-poms. Start a pattern in the top tray with the colors such as blue pom-pom, green pom-pom, blue pom-pom, green pom-pom, and then leave the next empty. Encourage your child to figure out what comes next in the pattern Encourage them to make a pattern of their own.

**Sorting and classifying** items are basic concepts taught children as part of preschool math curriculum. Recognizing that groups of objects are the same or different helps your child develop their logical thinking skills.

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**Sorting by Color and Size** Collect a variety of colored and sized socks from the people in your home. Separate the pairs and place them in a basket/box. Give them to your child to sort and match into pairs. Start small with five pairs and build up to more as your child is ready.

- The Button Box by Margarete S. Reid
- Sorting by Lynn Peppas
- Sorting at the Market by Tracey Steffora
- Sort it Out! by Barbara Mariconda

**Sorting by Season** Give your child clothing items from different seasons such as summer and winter. Have them sort the clothing by the season it goes with. Talk with your child about the differences in the seasons.

**Sorting by Color** Give your child a basket/box of random items. Have your child sort the items by color. Talk with your child about the color piles they sorted items into. To take the activity farther, count each of the items in the pile and talk about which has the most and the least.