

Spot What Comes Next: Repeating Patterns in Reception Maths

Key points

- Repeating patterns are a key part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the curriculum for children from birth to age five.
- A pattern is created when a 'unit'—a set of colours, sounds, or shapes—is repeated over and over again.
- Learning to spot and continue patterns helps children develop early logical reasoning skills.
- These early skills build a foundation for later maths work, such as counting in steps or multiplication.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and some may need more support or different tools to explore patterns.

Things to try at home

- Make a sound pattern together, like 'clap, stamp, clap, stamp', and see if your child can join in.
- Use colourful items from around the house, such as socks or fruit, to make a simple line of repeating colours.
- Look for patterns in the world around you, such as stripes on a shirt or tiles on a floor.
- Create a simple pattern with toys and ask your child which one comes next.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher, who can tell you how patterns are being taught in school.
- The GOV.UK website for official guidance on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.