

Block Patterns

Primary Objectives

- 21b. Understands shapes
- 23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

Why It's Important

When you encourage your child to answer simple questions about a choice between two objects, you help him develop listening skills and learn how to respond to questions.

Materials

Markers; cardboard; sturdy paper; pencils; blocks in different shapes

What You Do

1. Before you begin the activity, create several block pattern cards by lining up a pattern of 6–8 blocks on a piece of card stock. Trace around the blocks with a pencil. Remove the blocks from the paper and retrace the pencil outlines with a marker. Leave space on the paper for one more block, but do not trace it. Make sure to include some challenging patterns (square, cylinder, triangle, square, cylinder, triangle) and some simple patterns (square, triangle, square, triangle, square). Bring the patterns with you and sit down with your child in a quiet area.
2. Invite your child to join you in playing a block game.
3. Show him your pattern cards. Demonstrate how to place the blocks atop each outline and then complete the pattern by adding another block.
4. Show your child two patterns. Invite him to choose which one he would like to try.
5. As he works on completing the pattern, provide as little assistance as possible. Offer encouraging words. Ask questions to help him figure out the pattern. *You filled in all of the empty spaces. There is a square, then a triangle, a square, a triangle, and another square. I wonder what comes next.*
6. When he is finished, invite him to read the completed pattern to you. Encourage your child to choose another pattern and try again.
7. Allow your child to continue with the activity for as long as he is interested. Store the patterns in the Block area so he can use them again later.