

Going to the Park—Ordering and Patterning

Activities for Families

- Create movement patterns with your child as you move at the park (such as hop, hop, hop, kick, hop, hop, hop, kick).
- Another variation is to count out loud (one, two, three, kick, one, two, three, kick) as your child moves.
- Switch roles and encourage your child to either call out the patterned movement (hop, hop, hop, kick) or count the patterned movement (one, two, three, kick) as you move.
- Point out and talk about nature’s patterns (such as the pattern on a pine cone or leaf pattern on a tree) and man-made patterns (for example, brick or stone patterns along pathways) in the park.
- Ask your child to guess how many big or little steps it will take to move from one location to another at the park (for example, from the swings to the slide; from the big tree to the drinking fountain; from the playground to the car).
- Help your child count the stairs on the outdoor slide. Compare the number of steps on a higher slide with the number of steps on a lower slide.
- Look at and talk about plants, focusing your child’s attention on leaf and petal patterns.
- Read a picture book before, during, or after a trip to the park. Help your child point out, count, and discuss the vivid patterns in feathers, flowers, people, and animals illustrated in picture books like Tana Hoban’s, “Dots, Spots, Speckles, and Stripes.”
- Bring a pad of paper and pencils, crayons, or markers to the park. Encourage your child to trace around or draw different objects with patterns (such as leaves or flowers). Write the words to label the object’s parts. Make up stories about the objects and write down your child’s story to read together at a later time.