

Going to the Park—Ordering and Patterning

Advice for Families

- Children will notice patterns daily. Parents need to help children point out and recognize patterns in their clothes, on the sidewalk, on plants, and animals in the child’s different surroundings.
- The key to teaching patterns is helping your child become aware of, and develop an interest in patterns and providing chances for her to create and extend patterns in daily life (such as comparing the buttons on her blouse and the buttons on her doll’s dress).
- Make every trip to the park an enjoyable, shared experience. Engage your child in helping to decide which pattern activities she wants to participate in during each outing. Multiple trips to the park will allow you and your child to participate in different ways to observe and count patterns.
- Remember that the park is also an important physical outlet for your child to run, jump, swing, and climb. Allow your child lots of opportunity to move freely using large muscle movement. Take time for a nature walk, read a book, or draw nature patterns after your child has rested and is ready for a calmer activity that requires greater thought and focus.