



Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy
MathStart®

Beep Beep, Vroom Vroom!

Pattern Recognition

Level 1 Ages 3+

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Recognizing and being able to extend patterns leads to the development of logical thinking.

When little Molly plays with her big brother's red, yellow and blue toy cars, you know there's bound to be trouble...unless she can put them back in just the right order before he returns!

Illustrated by Chris Demarest.

DC Standard 4.2, Patterns, Functions and Algebra:

Children will demonstrate a beginning understanding of patterns and use mathematical representations to describe patterns. (4.2.2) Recognize, describe and copy simple patterns.

- Read the story together and ask the children to describe the patterns in which the cars are placed on the shelf. The patterns can be based on color or shape.
- To prepare for this activity, cut out squares, triangles and rectangles using three different colors of construction paper. Make sure to have a variety of sizes of each shape (10 each of small, medium and large in each of the different colors should be more than enough to start). Working with a small group of children, have one child make a pattern using 6 shapes that are all red. (For example, small square, large square, medium triangle, small square, large square, medium triangle). Ask the next child to repeat the pattern with the same sizes and shapes, but in yellow. Ask the next child to try using green shapes. Everybody says the pattern order together. As a variation, ask a child to make a color pattern only using small triangles (red, yellow, green, red, yellow, green). Ask the next student to use medium squares to copy the color pattern. And so on.
- Go on a Pattern Safari! Look for patterns in the classroom. They can be on clothing (stripes, for example), or floor tiles. You can even set up patterns for the children to discover. For example, create a pattern of heart shapes and squares on the bulletin board, or arrange blocks, crayons and other toys in repeating patterns.

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