

Patterning For Parents

Patterns are sequences of items or numbers that follow a **rule** so we can predict what comes next. We learn two kinds of patterns in grade two; repeating patterns and growing patterns. We are covering repeating patterns this month.

A **repeating pattern** is when a group of items repeat. The part of the pattern that repeats is called the **core**. The core must repeat three times before it is considered a pattern. Each item in the core is called an **element**. We use letters to label the core of a pattern. Each unique element is given a letter.

Eg. This pattern has three elements in the core. It is an ABB pattern.



We label this pattern **A B B**

The words we use to describe an element are called its **attributes**. The most common attributes we use are shape, colour, size and orientation (direction).

Eg. This pattern has 4 elements and uses 2 attributes; size and shape.



We label this pattern **A A B C**

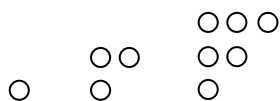
This pattern has 4 elements in the core and 2 attributes; colour and orientation.



We label this pattern **A A B C**

A **growing** or **increasing** pattern also repeats according to a **rule**. Skip counting is an example of an increasing pattern. If we are counting by 5s we can say that the pattern rule is "increasing by 5". (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30)

The following is also an example of an increasing pattern:



The pattern rule is "each row is increasing by 1".

Increasing patterns are harder for children to learn. For this reason we introduce them later in the year.