Patterns are everywhere, and you can give your child opportunities to create and play with them. After all, a pattern is as easy as something that repeats more than once—like red, blue, red, blue, red, blue. Thinking about patterns helps children make sense of math; it helps them predict what will happen. After just a bit of practice, you’ll be amazed at how often your child will find patterns that you don’t even see!

At Playtime and Around the House

- Help your child make a pattern with their crayons. Place one pointing up, the next pointing down, etc. As you make the pattern, ask, “What comes next?”

- Grow a pattern! Put one object on the table. Below that object, put another object on the table and have your child place one object next to it. Below that row, put two objects in a row, then ask your child to add one more to the row. Below that row, put three objects in a row, then have your child add one more. Ask, “How many do you think will be in the next row? Let’s find out!”

- When you help your child get dressed, help them count the items of clothing they are putting on (one shirt, two socks, etc.) Do any of them have a pattern?

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Check Out These Books

- *Pitter Pattern* by Joyce Hesselbirth
- *Bracelets for Bina’s Brother* by Rajani Larocca

Sing This Song

I’m a little teapot short and stout. Here is my handle, here is my spout. Whe I get all steamed up, hear me shout! Tip me over and pour me out. (Talk about how rhymes are patterns of sounds that repeat.)