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Set B1 Patterns Activity 2

Algebra Clap, Tap & Snap Patterns

Overview
Students work with guidance from the teacher to copy, extend, and create a variety of patterns with their hands, feet, and voices. They also identify each pattern with a letter sequence such as ABAB or ABBABB.

Skills & Concepts
★ identify, duplicate, extend, and create simple patterns of objects, sounds, and motions

You’ll need
★ whiteboard and markers

Instructions for Clap, Tap & Snap Patterns
1. Gather your children to the discussion circle. Begin a simple ABAB hand pattern: clap, tap your knees; clap, tap your knees; and so on. Motion for the children to join you as soon as they can until the whole class is participating.

2. Once everyone is comfortable with the pattern, ask children to think of body motions to substitute for each of the hand motions.

   Teacher What could we do with our bodies instead of clapping?
   Megan Jump! Let’s jump!
   Teacher And what shall we do instead of tapping our knees?
   Vincent We could bend down and touch the floor.
   Teacher Okay, here we go. (Leads children in a pattern of jump, bend, jump, bend, etc.)

3. Repeat Step 2 with several different sets of motions.

4. Stop and repeat the very first hand pattern (clap, tap, clap, tap). Ask students to say the letter A each time you clap and the letter B each time you snap. After they’ve chanted ABAB a number of times, write the sequence on the board. Explain that people often refer to a pattern like clap, tap; clap, tap as an “ABAB” pattern.

5. Now model a new pattern: clap, clap, tap your head; clap, clap, tap your head. Repeat steps 1–4 so that by the end, you have two different patterns recorded on the board: ABAB and AABAAB.

6. Finally, model a clap, snap, tap pattern. (Children who are unable to snap their fingers can simply touch them together.) When you get to step 4, challenge students to name the pattern with letters before you guide them through the naming process.
Activity 2  Clap, Tap & Snap Patterns (cont.)

Teacher  How could we use our alphabet letters to name this pattern?

Students  I think it's ABAB.
No, there are 3 things—clap, snap, and tap. I think we need another letter.
Maybe it should be ABC. Can we use C?

7. After the letter sequence for the third pattern (ABCABC) has been established, leave all three sequences (ABAB, AABAAB, and ABCABC) on the board for reference. As students build patterns at Work Places and participate in patterning activities over the next few months, these may often come in handy.

Extensions

• When students are using the Work Place materials, invite them to make one or more of the patterns with Unifix cubes, pattern blocks, or other materials.
• Ask students to each wear something patterned to school some Friday. See how many of the patterns they can name with the letter sequences you've posted on the board, and add other sequences to the collection if necessary.
• When you do arts and crafts projects, encourage students to utilize ABAB, AABAAB, ABCABC, or other patterns in their work.

Ian  I put an ABAB pattern on my place mat. See? Triangle, square, triangle, square.

Jenna  I did AABAAB, stripe, stripe, circle, stripe, stripe, circle. I like patterns!