

SORTING, SIZING AND PATTERNS

Numeracy - EYFS

Resources: natural materials around the playground

REPEATING PATTERNS

Arrange natural materials in a repeating pattern, e.g. green leaf, brown leaf, green leaf....

Can children guess what the pattern is and can they take it in turns to continue the pattern.

Repeat this with more complex patterns. Can children make their own patterns for you to guess and continue. You could give them a strip of card with double sided sticky tape on and they could stick their pattern down as a record.



CLAPPING GAME PATTERNS

Gather the children in a circle. Use your body to make a clapping, stamping, jumping pattern and repeat, can the children guess what comes next? Ask one child to continue the pattern, then the child next to them and so on round the circle.

Can children come up with their own pattern for you to copy.

GROUPING MATERIALS

Ask the children to collect a range of their own natural materials (maybe 10 different things). Can they group them by colour, shape, size or texture.

LONGER OR SHORTER

Ask each child to collect one stick (no longer than from their elbow to fingertips). Gather back in a circle. Place a stick on the ground. Ask one child at a time to place their stick down in the correct place to make a line of sticks in size order. They can tell you why it goes in that place, e.g. is it longer or shorter? Ask the other children if they agree.



MEASURING STICK

Children collect a stick which will be their measuring stick. How many sticks wide is the door or window? Can they find something that is the same length as their stick.

Give them a checklist of different objects around the playground—is their stick longer or shorter? Set children challenges using the measuring stick—find the tallest step or which is the deepest hole in the sandpit? How do they know?

