



Activity Idea

Activity	Beads and String
-----------------	------------------

Possibilities for maths learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Different coloured and shaped beads ➤ String
------------------	---

Activity Outline	<p>Create some necklaces with beads of a string using repeating patterns. Show the children the necklaces one at a time and ask them what they can see, what do they notice? Children may talk about the pattern and shape. It is the unit of repeating pattern (ABC, ABC, ABC) that you want to focus on in this activity.</p> <p>If children don't spot the unit of repeating pattern then point this out to them. Explain that there is a pattern in the beads on the necklace (this may be colour or shape). Explain the pattern by saying it aloud. <i>"The pattern is yellow, blue, red, yellow, blue red – so the unit in the pattern is yellow, blue, red and then this is repeated"</i>. (This is a basic A B C repeating pattern)</p> <p>Encourage the children to make their own patterned necklace. If it helps children could sort and classify the beads the beads into groups. This is also useful for developing fine motor skills. Discuss with children as they are creating their necklaces what the unit of repeating pattern is that they are using.</p> <p>You could also ask the children to copy a pattern you have created. You can make the pattern as challenging as you like depending on the age and stage of the children's unit of pattern knowledge.</p>
-------------------------	--

Extension Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ask the children to create their own repeating patterns and continue to support them to identify the unit of repeating patter. ✓ Provide a wide range of loose parts for children to explore and experiment with creating patterns. ✓ Create cards showing examples of patterns that the children can copy in their free play.
--------------------------------	--