

Activity Idea

Activity	Pasta Patterns
-----------------	----------------

Possibilities for maths learning	☐ Counting	☒ Composition	☐ Cardinality
	☐ Subitise	☐ Comparison	☐ Measure
	☒ Shape	☒ Pattern	☐ Spatial awareness

Resources	➤ Dried pasta in three different shapes such as penne, rigatoni and bowtie pasta. ➤ Homemade pasta pattern cards with a repeating unit of pattern. For example penne, penne, rigatoni/penne, penne, rigatoni (Make cards by tracing, drawing or gluing dried pasta in a pattern on a piece of paper or card.)
------------------	--

Activity Outline	Explain to children that they are going to copy patterns made with pasta. Show the children the three different pasta shapes that they are going to use. Provide the correct name for each type of pasta. You could start by providing children with the right amount of pasta pieces they need for each pattern (these could be stored in a zip bag along with the pattern card). Then to increase the difficulty you could have three containers, one filled with each type of pasta where children have to count out the right amount of pasta pieces to complete the pattern. To demonstrate, show the children a pasta pattern card. Ask: <i>“Can you see a pattern on the card? What is the pattern?”</i> Encourage children to share their answers and support them to identify the unit of pattern. Demonstrate to the children how to match each type of pasta on the pattern cards to create the pattern. If the card is traced you could place the pasta on top or if it is glued you could place the piece underneath. Remind children of the unit of pattern.
-------------------------	--

Extension Opportunities	✓ Support children to continue the pasta pattern. ✓ Create pasta pattern cards that leave spaces to challenge children to fill in the missing pasta piece in the pattern. ✓ Allow the children to make their own pasta pattern cards.
--------------------------------	---