

# Lesson Plans for...



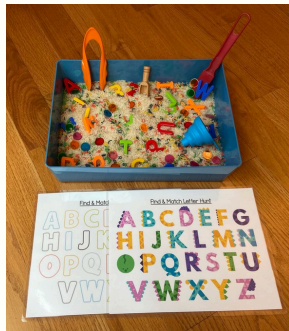
by Gabi Snyder

Patterns make order in a chaotic world, so what a comfort to notice that they're everywhere if you look for them. This beautiful book will help kids look closely at the patterns all around us, both in nature and the built environment, that we might not notice every day. There's even a subtle lesson in mindfulness that's revealed naturally. Fascinating end notes on different patterns in nature gives this STEM cred that will make this a wonderful addition to any classroom library.

## Literacy

**Look for Letters:** We don't expect our prekindergarten students to come to us at the beginning of the school year knowing all their letters but it's never too early to expose children to letters through play.

For this activity fill a sensory bin with your choice of filler (rice, beans, paper shreds, etc) and add magnetic, foam or puzzle alphabet pieces to the bin. Have a copy of the alphabet nearby for matching when the students find a letter in the bin. Add little trinkets in the box for beginning sound practice when the students are ready.



**NOTE:** Place the letters you plan to use on a piece of construction paper on a cookie sheet and put it in the sun to fade. Do this 2x, once with letters in order and the other mixed up. I laminated these for extended use to have a matching template for the activity

## Math

**Patterns:** Create a Pattern Station in your math center or for a small group activity where children can practice their own patterns. Set up a multitude of pattern making opportunities with tiles, pegs, cubes, blocks, cards, whatever you have on hand. Students can copy your patterns, make their own, add on to each other's and even draw their pattern after they build it. Another twist is to make a pattern then remove pieces and ask a friend fill in the missing parts. Ask the children to make a pattern for you to copy. They love opportunities to be the teacher!

This can become more of an open ended/loose parts activity as well.



There are some blank pattern strips at the end of this document as well as some colored shape cards children can use for patterning.

## Social/Emotional

**Candle and Flower Breathing:** The beginning of the school year year is the time when we set our classroom expectations for our new students. It's also a good time to implement some behavior management policies. We often tell children (and adults!) to take a few deep breaths to calm down or before reacting to an issue. It might help to use a visual to explain this technique to a child. The video available with this QR code uses the "smell the flower, blow out the candle" imagery to help children practice deep breaths. And breathing in and out, in and out, and in and out 4 or 5 times creates a pattern! After teaching this, add some silk flowers and a battery operated candle in your quiet corner to remind children to use the technique.



## Music

**Patterns in Music:** In the math section we made patterns visually but you can also make patterns with sound, or aurally. Rhythm patterns strung together make up a piece of music. One can use their voice, their body or instruments to demonstrate this.

- Drums or other instruments - shake, shake, boom, shake, shake, boom
- Movement exercises - walk, walk, hop, hop (a kinesthetic way to learn patterns)
- Clapping songs - "If You're Happy and You Know It" or "BINGO" have clapping patterns
- Repetitive songs - "Baby Shark" is a good example and kids love it!



## Science/Outdoors

**Pattern Hunt:** Once your students have begun to understand and identify patterns, take them on a walk outside of the classroom to look for patterns in the wild. This could be outside or even in the building. Be on the lookout for all different kinds of patterns: natural, man made, colors, sizes and shapes.



**STEAM:** To add a STEAM twist to your hunt, after identifying the pattern (science), take a picture of it (technology), attempt to build a physical representation of the pattern with blocks or other manipulatives (engineering), draw the pattern (art) and finally count the number of repeats in each pattern like tall short, tall short = 2 (math)!

## Art

**Collage:** *Look's* illustrator uses a layered diorama style to bring life to the story. Children can add a layer of interest to their art projects by using collage methods. Collage is a flexible and forgiving art form that appeals to children of all ages. Only skills needed are cutting, ripping, and glueing. And the beginning of the school year is a great time to get those fine motor skills engaged and to teach proper use of glue.

