

Mathematical moments: Pattern with 3 & 4 year olds

Repeating pattern fruit kebab



Helen, the nursery teacher had been introducing and discussing repeating patterns in the daily group sessions. She put out various materials, including toy dinosaurs and long strips of wood to encourage children to make repeating patterns with these. Nobody did, but when they were making fruit kebabs later, Rosie said, *We could make a pattern with the kebabs!* Her friend Alicia made a *banana, black grape, green grape* (ABC) pattern, with the same unit of repeat twice. She ran out of room on her stick, so it is not clear whether she could have continued the pattern.



Photograph acknowledgement: Riversdale Primary School