

The power of pattern

The activities on these pages are taken from *The power of pattern* by Alison Borthwick, Sue Gifford and Helen Thouless, recently published by the ATM.

Initially, we suggested that action and sound patterns came before object patterns, thinking them easier and more suitable for younger children. In fact, we found they were harder to copy and continue: on reflection, this is obvious, since the unit of repeat cannot be seen and keeps disappearing.

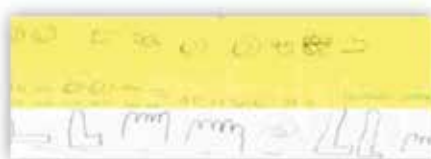


Children making action pattern sequences



Making a pattern sequence with musical instruments

At a higher level, action patterns also offer children the creative challenge of representing them with pictures or symbols, which may then be read and acted out by other children. This involves generalising by 'translating' patterns between active, pictorial and symbolic modes.



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