

# Families for Literacy Program Newsletter

## November, 2019

**Tutors: please go over this newsletter (whatever is appropriate) with your adult students and encourage them to visit the Story Times with their children, it's a lot of fun and so very important →**

Children who grow up being read to, grow up to love books and reading. Join our free Library Story Times:

**Lakeport Library**, 1425 N. High Street, **Fridays, 10:15 am and 2:30 pm**  
**Middletown Library**, 21256 Washington Street, Middletown, **Tuesdays, 11:30 am**  
**Redbud Library**, 14785 Burns Valley Road, Clearlake, **Thursdays, 10:30 am**



### Cool ways to teach your preschooler patterns

Is your young child drawn to music, shapes, and colors? Most are, and it is their natural love of order and math. This math know-how emerges from your child's developmental milestones (like being able to clap), alongside their experiences (like clapping along to songs). Even babies learn math concepts early on, and it all starts with patterns. **Are you ready to clap?**



**If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands** tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It"

If you're thankful and you know it, **clap your hands**. If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're thankful and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're thankful and you know it, **stomp your feet**. If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet.

If you're thankful and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet.

If you're thankful and you know it, **shout "I am!"** If you're thankful and you know it, shout "I am!"

If you're thankful and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're thankful and you know it, shout "I am!"



Patterns are arrangements of things that repeat in a logical way. Those arrangements of sounds, colors, shapes, gestures, images, or numbers are a crucial concept for young kids and contributes heavily to their early math understanding.

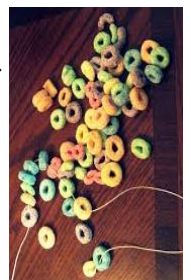
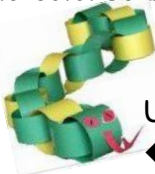
Understanding patterns even helps your preschooler's social development because it instills in them an understanding of the sequence of everyday routines, such as taking turns while playing or following school rules, such as raise your hand, wait to be called on, share what you have to say.

At this age, there are two types of patterns to look for and practice: repeating patterns (like red-blue-red-blue-red) and growing patterns (like small, medium, large). Luckily, both are hidden in your child's daily activities and practicing these patterns is incredibly fun:

### Color patterns

Color patterns are everywhere, and your child probably loves to spot and create them. Legos and colored blocks both lend themselves to creating color patterns: red-red-blue-yellow-red-red-blue-yellow. Your child may love coloring rainbows, which follow a color sequence; help them learn and follow the sequence.

Use arts and crafts to challenge kids to create and follow patterns, for example  
← **paper snakes** and colorful **necklaces** using candy and cereal as "beads." →



Transform Household items, such as ice cube trays and empty egg cartons into work stations where your child can create and recreate colorful play dough patterns. →



### Gobble Gobble up some Turkey Fruit! (Edible craft)

**You need:** An apple, and small (pieces of) fruit like pineapple, mandarin oranges, green grapes, dark grapes, cherry or strawberry, edible eyes, and tooth picks.

**Side view:**

Cut the bottom off of the apple so it stands up straight. Save the cut off part to sculpt the wings and head. Cut off matching pieces of the oranges and pineapple. Let your little one place the pieces of fruit in a matching color **pattern**

on the four tooth picks and help your little sculptor to poke them in the back side of the apple. Create head and wings with the saved apple slice. Poke a tooth pick in the front towards the top and attach the head. Secure eyes, orange nose, and wings with peanut butter. Use a tiny piece of a cherry (or strawberry) for the waddle. Use the mandarin orange slices as feet for your edible turkey.



### Rhythm and music patterns

Research shows music and math are intertwined in our brains from an early age. The steady clap-clap-clap of hands or bang-BANG-bang-BANG on pots and pans are linked to your child's math skills, like counting, sequencing, and spatial awareness. When you spot the beginning of a pattern, help your child add to it: teaching patterns through music will benefit your child's cognitive abilities down the line.

Children's nursery rhymes and music are often based on simple patterns. Many also require movement, like circling and falling down in "Ring Around the Rosie".

Turn on the music, and let the **pattern** play. If you're looking specifically for child-friendly tunes, Kids also love the patterns in *jump rope games* and in clapping songs, like *Pat-a-Cake*, or in simple popular tunes like these Thanksgiving songs:

#### The Turkey (fingerplay)

**The turkey is a funny bird.** Hook thumbs together and spread fingers to create turkey tail.

**Its head goes wobble, wobble.** Wobble head back and forth.

**And all it knows is just one word:** Hold up one finger.

**"Gobble, gobble, gobble."** Make mouth shape with hand, opening and closing it while sounding like a turkey

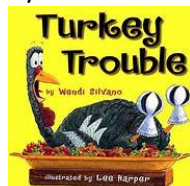
#### Check out these or other Thanksgiving books at your library:

**Thanksgiving rules** by Laurie B. Friedman, *Is there more to Thanksgiving than stuffed turkey and sweet potatoes? See how Percy discovers the true recipe for a perfect Thanksgiving*, 5-9

**The battle of the red hot pepper weenies and other warped and creepy tales** by David Lubar, 9-12

**Turkey Trouble** by Wendi Silvano and Lee Harper, 3-7

**My first Thanksgiving** by Tomie De Paola, 1-5



#### Thank You Song (Sung To: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

Thank you for the sun so bright,  
Thank you for the moon at night,  
Thank you for my family,  
Thanks for friends who play with me,  
Thanks for everything I see,  
I am thankful, yes siree!



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