

Developing practice

To develop our understanding of how to teach pattern, I had to take a step back with how I approached teaching pattern with the children as I had observed some children were struggling. I began with simple rhythms and using body parts to create a pattern - clapping, tapping, stamping, and so on. I then incorporated the rhythm sticks and used this as a way of making the session different. I included opportunity for looking at patterns in continuous provision as well as a designated weekly taught session. This involved making body rhythm patterns in PE, putting out resources to encourage simple AB pattern making and stories involving a pattern sequence. This developed over the year and as my focus child started showing signs of development, I adapted the sessions to encourage and allow her to make progress. She was soon able to make AB patterns and I wanted to ensure she was secure in this before moving onto the next step. She is now working at a level where she is beginning to be able to work with AAB patterns with a little support and she can now look for patterns within the environment (which is something she was unable to do before).

Impact

The impact upon the children has been brilliant. My focus child has made good progress and is now working at a level where she can make AAB patterns and is noticing pattern in the environment. The other children have benefitted from a weekly session purely based on pattern. They have worked at different levels with some of our gifted children working at an advanced level.

May's learning

May created patterns that she could show with her body such as tapping or stamping. She then progressed onto using rhythm sticks and looking at pattern within a story before understanding the idea of AB patterns. Since this project started, I have spent one-to-one time with May and she is now working towards seeing AAB patterns within work. She is now able to see patterns around her.

Key message

The most important thing we learned about pattern was that pattern is everywhere – you just have to concentrate and look for it!