

Star Patterning

Purpose: The Star Patterning Teaching Tool is designed to help you expose children to copying, extending and creating patterns. There are many other ways you can use this material as well. Because the stars are red, white and blue, this material will tie in nicely with the upcoming Memorial Day holiday!

Preparation: To prepare, we recommend you mount the sheets to sturdy paper. Then, cut apart by following the dotted lines.

Main Use: This material can be used in many different ways. When copying patterns, the children can put the individual cards above, below or on top of the matching pictures on the strips. To practice extending the patterns, you would help the children figure out the pattern by saying it out loud. Next, you would challenging the children to say what color star would come next when you get to the end of the strip. The children would then use the cards to continue the pattern. Your most advanced children can use the individual cards to make their own patterns.

Additional Use Ideas:

- **Hide, Find, Sort, Count:** Print out several pages of the individual stars and hide them either inside or out. Have the children find the stars and then sort them by color. Children who are ready can then count the number of stars in each group.
- **Matching Colors:** Put the star cards in a paper bag. Have each child pull a star from the bag and then find something in the room that is the same color. It may even be something they are wearing!
- **Star Parade Costumes:** Print out many copies of the individual stars and cut apart. Then cut paper grocery bags to create vests OR construction paper to create headbands. Set out these materials along with all kinds of art/collage materials. Invite interested children to use them as desired to make costumes to wear. Then, turn on patriotic music, get out the rhythm band instruments and have a parade!



