

"Pet-tastic" Patterns

Unleash your cat and dog lovers on this set of pet-inspired pattern projects. Once your youngsters have trained with these spotted puppy dog and striped cat activities, they'll be nothing less than pattern pros!

by Lucia Kemp Henry

Pet Lotto

Help your little ones begin to recognize patterns with this lotto activity that will have the players pairing pups and cats by their patterns and colors. To make one lotto activity, make two copies of page 38 on tan construction paper and two copies on gray paper. Cut one sheet of each color along the lines to create cards. Cut the remaining sheets only along the edge of the set of cards to make the lotto boards. To use, invite pairs of students to lay the boards and cards on a table. Have the students take turns placing each lotto card on its matching space on one of the two boards. Once the students understand how to play, encourage them to repeat the activity on their own.

Spot and Stripe Patterns

Here's a "gr-r-eat" way to stretch your youngsters' skills in identifying spotted and striped patterns. You'll also extend their understanding of how patterns repeat. To prepare, reproduce the dog and cat cards (page 39) onto white construction paper at least three times. Color each dog with a simple pattern of spots, such as big and small or brown and black. Similarly, color the cats with stripes to create patterns, such as wide and thin stripes or red and yellow stripes.

During a group time, explain that patterns are lines and shapes that repeat. Then have your students identify the spots or stripes on each animal. Also help them identify the pattern on that animal. When your group time is over, place the cards in a math or art center for use with "Colorful Pet Patterns" on page 37.

Colorful Pet Patterns

Extend the use of the pet reproducibles on page 39 with this patterning art project. To prepare, duplicate the cards to create at least a class supply. Cut out the dog and cat cards; then put them in a center along with crayons and the examples created for "Spot and Stripe Patterns" on page 36. Encourage each child to color a pattern on a pet either by copying one of your examples or creating his own. Be sure to invite children to identify the patterns on their pets during a group time. Hey, does that cat have green and blue stripes?

Pairing Up Pets

More matching and patterning is in store for your youngsters with these pet pairs. Make a dog and a cat tracer from the lotto cards on page 38 as shown. Trace pairs of dog and cat shapes from different colors of scrapbook paper (from craft stores) with stripes and polka dots, and then cut them out. Ask a small group of children to help you find the matching pairs of pets. Then have them identify the visual patterns on the cutouts. Next, help them arrange some of the cutouts in a line to create a pattern. For example, you could create a dog and cat pattern, a striped cat and spotted cat pattern, a blue pet and yellow pet pattern, and more. Keep it simple and patterning is sure to be "pet-tacular" fun!



Pet Style

Who's the teacher's pet? Each and every student who wears one of these simple-to-make headbands! Help each child paint a pattern of spots or stripes on a strip of tagboard. When the paint is dry, cut out paper ears to attach to the strip. Then staple the ends of the strip together to fit the child's head. Isn't wearing a pattern just the cat's meow?

