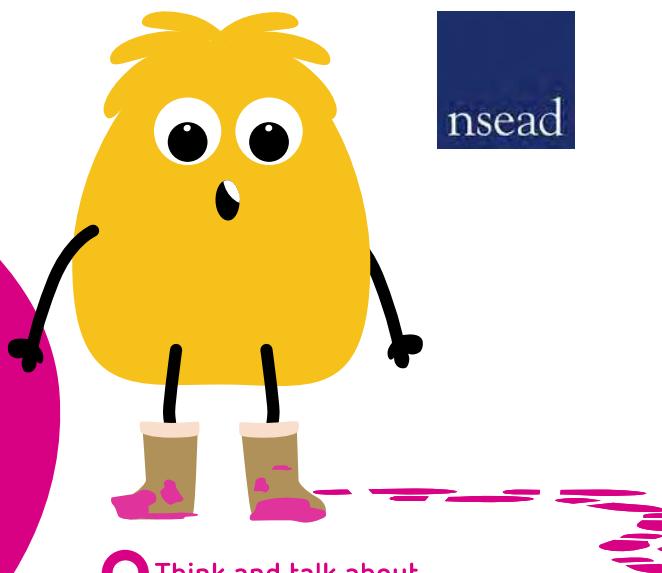


GROWING WITH PATTERN

In this activity, children will be introduced to repeat patterns using print. They are encouraged to look for examples of patterns in the natural and man-made environment, prior to experimenting with printing from simple objects.

🕒 15 to 40 minutes

Skill set Creative, logical, observant



🗣️ Think and talk about

- Is anybody wearing a pattern? Can you describe how it 'grows'?
- Can you see any patterns in the room? Are there any shapes, colours, pictures or objects that are repeated?
- Why should patterns repeat and grow? Is this a kind of visual hiccup or is it necessary to cover larger areas of space like walls, tables, people or buildings?

⚠️ Watch out

- Only use water-based printing inks.
- Children should wear old clothes or protective aprons.
- Have a large damp sponge to wipe sticky fingers and an old towel for damp hands.
- Remind the children that they must always put the inky object back in the ink tray. This is a rule.

➤ Next steps

- These prints can make a spectacular backing for a display, or be used as wrapping paper. Try using pre-coloured and printed papers, including newspaper, for the children to print on.
- Visit the NSEAD resources pages for ideas of how to take the activity further [nsead.org/resources/units-of-work](https://www.nsead.org/resources/units-of-work) ✨

🏠 At home

Ask each child to see if they can find something at home that has a pattern. They might find fabric off cuts, wrapping paper or packaging that has a pattern.

🧰 Kit list

A collection of objects

Different coloured papers

Water-based printing ink

Trays

Rollers

A large sponge

An old towel

Polythene

📖 Instructions

- 1 Cover a table with polythene then roll out some water-based ink on a flat plastic tray. Use three different colours. Put some of the objects in each of the trays.
- 2 Give out a piece of paper to each child and let them choose an object from a tray of coloured ink. Let them make a print on the top left of their paper.
- 3 Ask them to choose a new colour and make another print next to the first one. Make a third print next with the first two, in a colour they haven't used. Let them repeat the order of the colours to make a coloured pattern.
- 4 Remind the children to keep checking their paper to decide on what comes next. Encourage them to repeat the sequence all the way down the paper. Make sure there is plenty of space for the prints to dry as soon as they are finished.