

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)
Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

Playing with Math

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

PRESCHOOL - Activity: Color Pattern Plates

What you need:

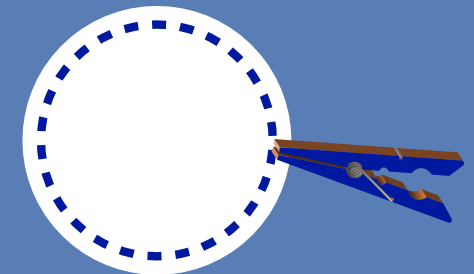
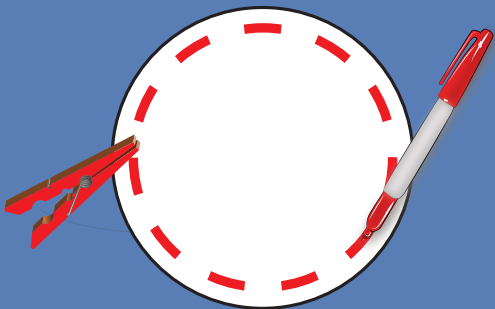
- Disposable paper plates
- Colored markers
- Wooden clothes pins
- Optional: timer

What to do:

- Use the markers to color a pattern around the edges of the paper plates. For example, color about a one-inch square red, then a blue square next to that, then red again, then blue again until the entire outer edge of the plate is colored
- You may want to create some simple two-color pattern plates, and build up to more complex three to five color sequences
- Now color each wooden clothespin a color that matches the plate. Make sure you have enough clothespins of each color for your child to complete the patterns
- Invite your child to clip the colored clothespins to the corresponding color on the edge of the plate
- Once your child learns to manipulate the clothespins easily, you can have races to see who can clip their pattern the fastest, or set a timer and see how many patterns your child can finish before it dings
- Talk about the colors and patterns on the plates, count the clothespins and colored squares, and encourage your child to color her own patterns. Ask questions such as, "How many red clothes pins do we need for this plate?"
- Store the activity in a box or sealable bag and offer the activity to your child every few days, or use it as a game for a group of children to play with the timer

What the activity does:

- Practices patterning (a pre-algebra skill) and one-to-one correspondence
- Supports color recognition
- Develops eye-hand coordination and the pincher grasp, a fine motor skill which is crucial for learning to hold a pencil correctly
- Practices counting and simple math (addition)



CHILDREN'S
HOME
SOCIETY OF
CALIFORNIA
www.chs-ca.org

