



Physical Education
Age 2-5

Fine motor stones

- Design copying



Overview

- Children will practise their fine motor skills by following the patterns on the stones and making their own patterns for others to follow.

Equipment

- Stones
- Chalk
- Paintbrushes
- Pots of water
- Sugar paper

Activity

1. Draw different handwriting patterns on large stones with chalk, e.g. loops, swirls, lines, stars.
2. Place the stones on a table or tuff spot with pots of water, bowls of chalk, and different sized paintbrushes for the children to use. You could also place strips of sugar paper on the table.
3. Model choosing a paintbrush and painting with water to trace over the patterns on the stones or recreate the patterns on the strips of sugar paper with chalk or water.
4. Model recreating the pattern on the stone with chalk for others to use.
5. Allow the children to explore creating the patterns, either on the stones or on the paper.
6. Extend the activity by copying large versions of the patterns on the ground.

Check for understanding

1. What pattern have you made? Is this easy or is it tricky to do?
2. What do you have to think about when you follow the pattern?
3. Which is your favourite pattern to make? Why?
4. Can you make your own pattern?

Learning outcomes

Play types	Locomotor – the child uses large and small movements to create the pattern.
	Creative – the child chooses how to copy a pattern and then uses this to create their own pattern.
Motor skills	Fine motor skills through copying and creating patterns.
Literacy and mathematics	Language skills through commenting on and describing chosen patterns.
	Handwriting pattern movements encourage handwriting skills.
	Use of mathematical language to describe patterns and sizes of the paintbrushes.
Self-directed learning	Leave the stones out as part of continuous provision for the children to practise making patterns or pictures using the stones without adult support.

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: l.tl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training