

Building Brick Patterns 1

A repeating patterns outdoor and indoor activity for groups

What you will need – outdoor activity

- Pencils and paper for recording
- Camera (optional)

What to do – outdoor activity

- Take children outside. Look together around the environment for patterns. Where can you see repeating patterns?
- Highlight to the children the different types of repeating patterns you can see, within rectangular shapes (such as bricks or roof tiles).
- Encourage the children to draw these patterns, or take photographs if camera is available.

What you will need per pair – indoor activity

- A copy of this sheet (**Please note:** this is an A3 document and needs to be printed at 100%)
- Six Numicon 2-shapes
- 12 Numicon Pegs
- For Extensions: Numicon Shapes

What to do – indoor activity

- Use the building template on this sheet.
- Ask children to select some Numicon 2-shapes. These are the bricks they will use to cover the wall.
- Ask: how many bricks do you need to cover the whole wall?
- Children investigate how many different ways the bricks can cover the wall space (horizontally, vertically, or a combination of both).

Extensions and questions

- Repeat the activity with 2 coloured pegs as the brick and make different designs.
- Try to cover the wall with bricks of 2 different sizes (e.g. 2-shapes and 1-shapes).
- Repeat the activity with different sizes of brick (e.g. Numicon 3-shape).
- Repeat the activity with a different sized wall, using Numicon Shapes to make it.

