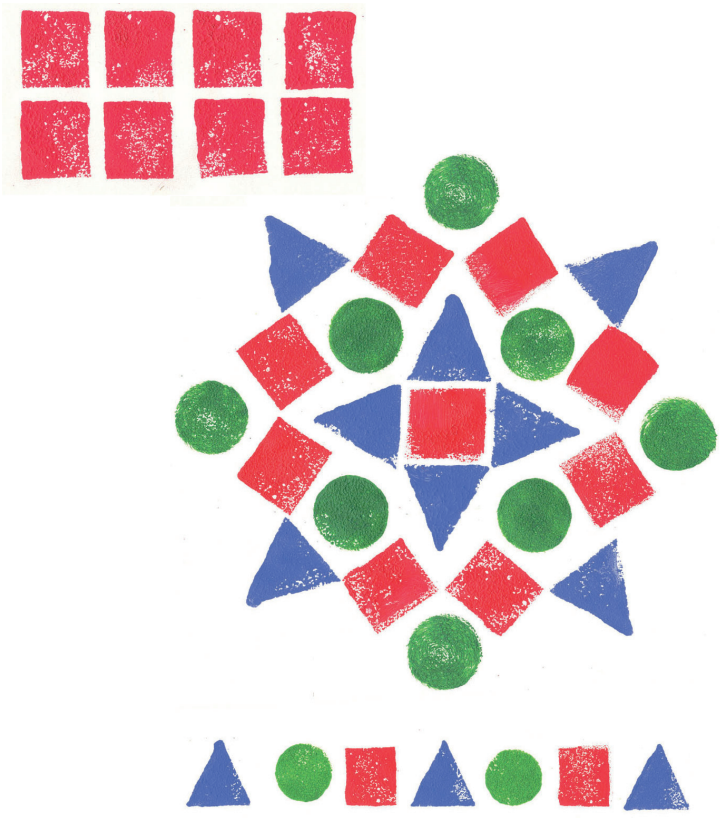
Sponge Printed Repeat Patterns

Help to consolidate children's understanding of colour by grouping paper into colour families.

Materials

- Cartridges or coloured sugar paper
- Ready mixed paints - 2 or 3 colours
- Sponges cut into basic shapes
- Flat palette or paper plate



Preparation

Do a brief session on shape recognition and make sequences with 2D shapes for the children to repeat before starting the print work. Manipulating the shapes before printing helps to consolidate their understanding.
Prepare a series of shape sequences for the children to follow either on paper or on the Interactive White Board.

Method

- Set out 2 palettes/plates with one colour on each - avoid too much paint, less paint gives crisper prints.
- Choose simple geometric shapes - sponges can be easily cut with scissors if you don't have any shaped ones.
- Demonstrate how to dab the sponges into the paint to load it evenly and how to print using vertical up and down movements. It is important to avoid moving the sponges sideways.
- Ask the children to print with a single shape in order to practice the technique.
- Show the children the first shape sequence and show them how to copy it, working alongside until they are secure with the method.
- When they have copied the sequence challenge them to continue the sequence a bit further - can they work out what shapes come next?
- Focus on precision with the printing as well as accuracy in completing the pattern.
- If desired, give the children a second shape sequence to work on, this time without modelling it for them.

Taking it further

More able children could start to make sequences for their peers to follow. Work with more colours to increase the complexity. Try making regular arrangements of the shapes instead of lines. Encourage the children to make other arrangements of priced shapes, focusing on repeating the shapes accurately.

Experimenting

Working with sequences of colour and shapes helps improve children's visual discrimination and they will start to recognise sequences and patterns in their environment.