



Translucent Stackable Counters

Here's What You Get!

- 500 Translucent Stackable Counters
- 5 Activity Cards
- Storage Container
- Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Patterning exists all around us in the world that we live in. From the stripes on a zebra to the colors of light at a traffic signal. Patterns give us visual clues of what is happening or what is about to happen in our day to day life. They allow for predictability and stability in our lives. Patterning is a skill that crosses all the disciplines of study from math and science to language and reading.

It's never too early to introduce how to deduce patterns to young children. Patterning is an essential math skill that preschoolers can master early. This foundation will be critical for future learning. The Translucent Stackable Counters are excellent manipulative tools to help reinforce basic patterns, using colors. The counters are also small, stackable and easy for young hands to manipulate

Use the Excellerations® Translucent Stackable Counters to address these Preschool and Head Start Learning Outcomes:

- Goal P – MATH 2: Child recognizes the number of objects in a small set.
- Goal P – MATH 3: Child understands the relationship between numbers and quantities.

- Goal P – MATH 7: Child understands simple patterns.
- Goal P – MATH 10: Child explores the positions of objects in space.
- Goal P – PMP 3: Child demonstrates increasing control, strength, and coordination of small muscles.
- Goal P – SCI 5: Child plans and conducts investigations and experiments.

Suggested Activities

Patterns

The Stackable Counters make simple and easy ways to teach the child about repeating patterns, which builds a foundation for many future skills in all cognitive areas. When helping children recognize patterns, remember the following:

- Make sure the child recognizes the colors used in the pattern. Classifying the counters by color is essential prior to expecting the child to understand and use them in patterns.
- Recognizing a pattern and how it repeats (replicating and continuing an existing pattern) is a foundation skill prior to expecting a child to create his own pattern.
- Have the child master a simple ABAB pattern to begin with before incorporating a third color.

 **WARNING**
CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts
Not for children under 3 yrs.

Translucent Stackable Counters (continued)

Counting

Use the stackers as counting tools when the children are working on one-to-one correspondence (saying a number for each item counted). Try these counting ideas:

- Place a numeral card on a tray. Have the child demonstrate counting that many stackers.
- Write a numeral on a small zip lock bag. Have the child fill the bag with enough counters to match the number written on the bag.
- Have the child stack the number they are counting. For example, have her count out five counters and then stack them and count the number again. The child should realize that no matter how they appear, there will always be 5.
- Use the counters with any other activity that requires manipulative counters.

Set Comparison (Subitizing)

The stackers are easy to use to do set comparison. Create two sets of stackers with different amounts of counters. Have the child count and indicate which set has the most. Eventually, the child should develop the skill of indicating which set has the most and which has the least, without counting individual items.

Have the child create sets by stacking the counters. Point out that the more counters in the stack, the higher the stack. Create several different stacks and have the child indicate which one is larger and which one is smaller. Children should be able to do this by comparing the height of each stack.

Color Mixing

The Translucent Stackable Counters work very well on a light table or panel. Use a light panel as the child counts and does any of the activities above. The child can also stack two different colors of counters and watch the color-mixing that occurs as the light goes through the two different counters.

Measuring

Have the child use the counters as a measurement tool:

- How many counters long is the book?
- Place an item on one side of a balance scale. Have the child determine and count how many counters it takes to balance the scales.