PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS AND ALGEBRA

INTRODUCTION

- PATTERNS ARE EVERYWHERE.
- PATTERNS ARE THINGS THAT REPEAT THEMSELVES IN A LOGICAL WAY.
- YOU CAN FIND PATTERNS IN MUSIC, ART, NATURE AND EVEN IN SPORTS.
- PATTERNS CAN BE COMFORTING TO YOUNG CHILDREN.

PATTERNS

IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR LETTER AND NUMBER FORMATION, SUITABLE RHYTHMIC PATTERN EXERCISES MUST PRECEDE THE FORMATION OF FIGURES.

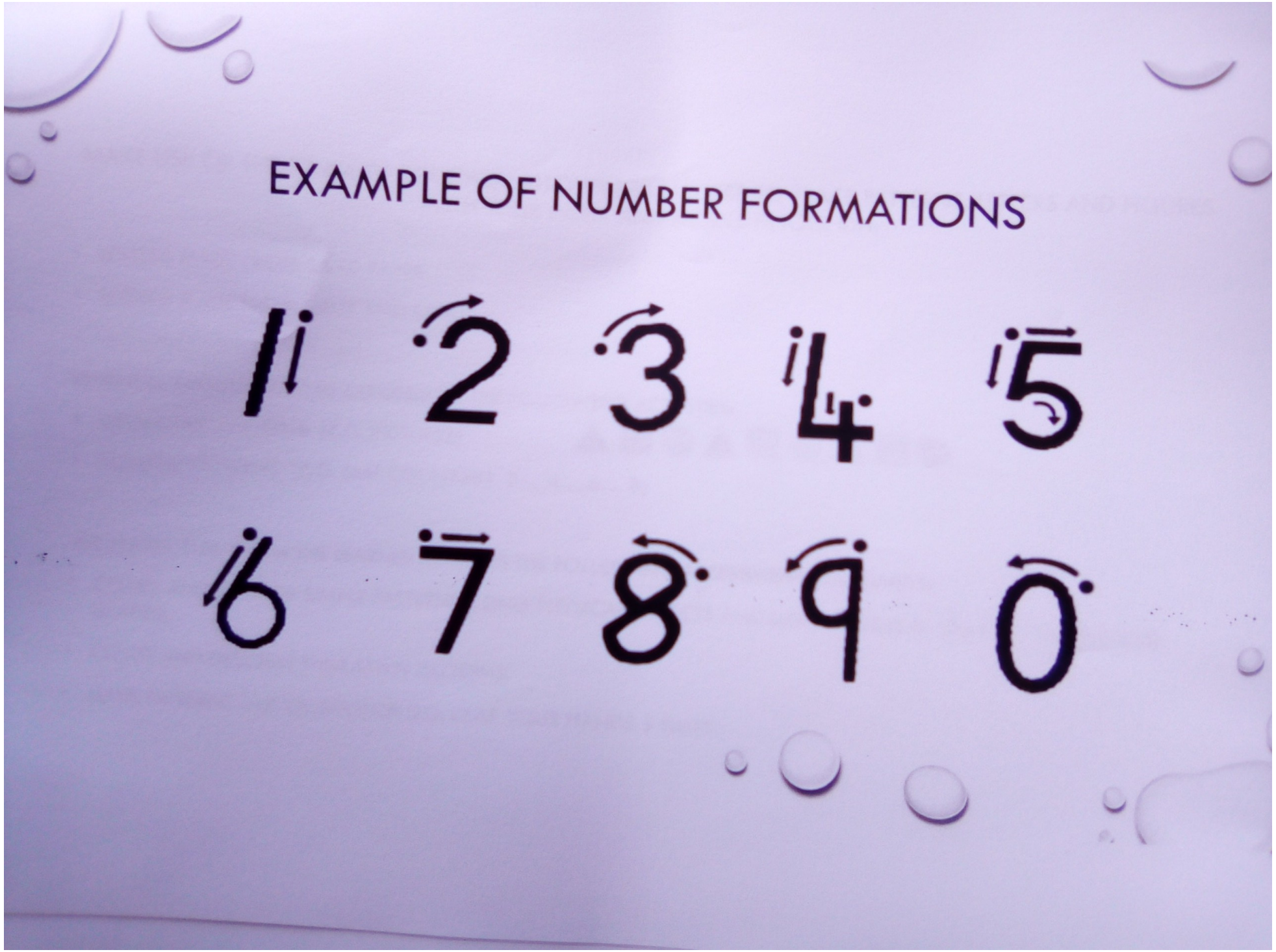
THE FOLLOWING SKILLS ARE BEING DEVELOPED:

- FINE MOTOR CONTROL
- FLUENCY OF THE MOVEMENT OF HAND AND WRIST
- LEFT TO RIGHT ORIENTATION

- PATTERNS SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN A RHYTHMIC MANNER.
- FORMATION OF LETTERS IS BASED ON PATTERNS AND IF A CHILD PRACTISES THE MOVEMENT OF THE PATTERNS, HE/SHE WILL BE ABLE TO FORM LETTERS EASILY LATER.

NOTE: THE EDUCATOR SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE CORRECT STARTING POINT OF THE LETTERS (AS WELL AS NUMERALS), AND THEIR CORRECT FORMATION.

- PATTERNS SHOULD BE PRACTICED IN GRADE R IN AN INFORMAL WAY, AS PART OF FREE CHOICE CREATIVE ART ACTIVITIES.


EXAMPLE OF NUMBER FORMATIONS
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 0

MAKE USE OF THE SENSE OF TOUCH BY ALLOWING LEARNERS TO TRACE PATTERNS, LETTERS AND FIGURES WITH THEIR INDEX AND MIDDLE FINGER ON:

- LETTERS MADE FROM SAND PAPER.
- LETTERS MADE FROM GLUE AND SAND.

LEARNERS SHOULD ALSO BE EXPOSED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- GEOMETRIC PATTERNS (E.G. PICTURES) 
- NUMERIC PATTERNS (E.G. SKIP COUNTING 2... 4... 6... 8)

WE KNOW THIS WHEN THE LEARNER ACHIEVES THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT STANDARDS:

- COPIES AND EXTENDS SIMPLE PATTERNS USING PHYSICAL OBJECTS AND DRAWINGS (E.G. USING COLOURS AND SHAPES)
- CREATE AND DESCRIBE THEIR OWN PATTERNS.
- MAKE PATTERNS OUT OF SOUNDS (EG. CLAP YOUR HANDS 5 TIMES.)

OBJECTS FOR PATTERNS

- BEADS
- BLOCKS
- STICKS
- CEREAL
- LEAVES
- SHOES
- STICKERS
- SOCKS

AND MANY MORE ...