

FIN-TASTIC PATTERNS: Little Fish, Big Learning!

Our Friendly Fish class is diving into the world of patterns as they practice arranging little fish by color – red, blue, green, and orange. As the children gather around their friends and a row of colorful fish, Mrs. Evie cheerfully explains, “We’re going to create patterns with our fish! Look at these colors. Can you follow the pattern?”

One by one, each child takes a turn copying the fish pattern. Rachele quickly and confidently begins lining up the orange fish, red fish, green fish then blue, carefully following the pattern in order. Miki, on the other hand, selects a random fish and places it in the correct spot, still following the color pattern. Each child completed the color pattern successfully in their own way. Pattern recognition is an essential part of early math skills, laying a foundation for understanding sequencing, logic, and order – skills they’ll use throughout their lives. By identifying and recreating these patterns, they’re sharpening cognitive skills that are crucial for future problem-solving.



For preschoolers, arranging patterns also strengthens fine motor skills as they pick up and place each fish in the correct spot. Some children pick up each fish with intense focus, carefully lining them up in a row, like Zane, while others, like Ella—less concerned about a straight line—enthusiastically place fish one after the other, happy just to see the colors repeating. Each placement reflects their unique personalities and shows the importance of learning at their own pace which reinforces each child’s individuality and sense of self-worth. By creating patterns, they’re learning to express themselves while also respecting and appreciating others’ ideas.

At one point, a child becomes confused by the color pattern and begins lining the fish in a random order. This gives the teacher the opportunity to step in and gently guide them through the next step while reminding them, "It's okay to ask for help when we're learning something new. God loves it when we work together!" This interaction highlights the Christian value of humility and the importance of perseverance, reassuring them that it's okay not to know everything right away.



Bringing It All Together

At the end of the activity, the children proudly show off their lines of colorful fish, each one a small testament to their patience, creativity, and newfound skills. They've learned more than just colors and sequences—they've learned the joy of creation, the importance of encouragement, and the value of community. As they gather their little fish in hand, they carry with them a lesson that will stick with them: they are part of a larger pattern, beautifully crafted, each piece uniquely important in God's grand design.