

➤ Task notes. Activity next page.

**The purpose of this task is to help your child learn to:**

- interpret and describe a pattern, and write a rule for any number (n) of elements in a sequential pattern.

This is an important part of algebra.

**Think about this:**

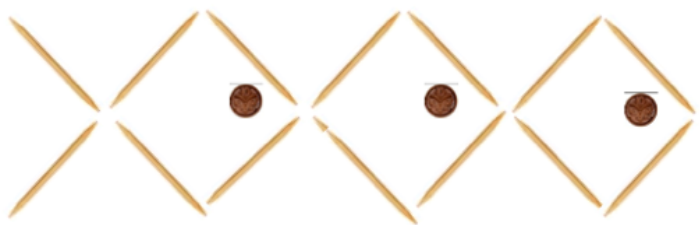
- Make sure that a pencil and paper are available.
- Have your child look at the fish pattern and talk about what is happening.
- As they make a table to show the relationship between the number of fish and the number of toothpicks, have them tell you what they notice.
- When your child has written the rule, it is important that they test it to see if it works for any number of fish.
- Encourage them to make another toothpick pattern of their own, and investigate their pattern by repeating the steps in this task.



# Activity | Pattern problem

Y6

Sam is using toothpicks to make this pattern.



- **Make a table** here to show what is happening in Sam's pattern.

- **Describe the pattern** in your own words.

- **Write a rule** for the pattern.

- Say how many toothpicks are needed to make:

10 fish	<input type="text"/>
25 fish	<input type="text"/>
'n' fish	<input type="text"/>

