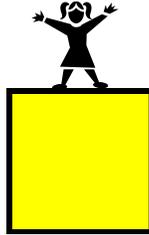


Family Activities



School Readiness Skill: Recognizes, names, and copies basic shapes (including circle, square, triangle, rectangle)

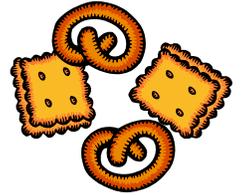
The best way to teach geometric concepts which include the shapes to your child is to make meaningful connections to their everyday life. Children are more likely to master these concepts if they see them as relevant to their world. Try these fun learning activities at home to help your child learn the basic shapes.



Meal Time Geometry



Work with your child to make a snack that includes the basic shapes. Choose foods that resemble the shapes or cut the foods to represent these shapes. Examples include: oranges for circles, eggs for ovals, crackers for rectangles, cheese slices for squares. You may also cut foods such as watermelons into shapes such as triangles or have your child nibble bread slices or crackers into your child's favorite shape. Take time to discuss how and why these foods resemble the various shapes.



Shape Hunt



Go on a shape hunt around your home, park, shopping center or neighborhood. Discuss what shapes they see or what shapes the objects resemble most. For example, the living room door is the shape of a rectangle, the window and floor tiles in the kitchen are squares, and the traffic signs you pass in your car on the way to the grocery may represent all sorts of different shapes.

Making Shapes



One way to help your child learn to copy shapes is to use play-dough or modeling clay. Provide your child with pictures of the basic shapes and demonstrate how to manipulate and mold the dough into those shapes. Another fun way to reinforce this skill is to use flexible pipe cleaners. Your child can bend the pipe cleaners into different shapes.

Shape Book



Once your child has had plenty of opportunities to explore shapes in their world and to use materials to make shapes they should move on to using paint, crayons, markers, and other drawing tools to represent these shapes on paper. Try stapling several blank pages into a “Shape Book”. Invite your child to copy a different shape they have learned about on each page of the book. Help your child label each page and keep a copy of the book in your child’s library of books at home to enjoy again and again.



Check out the list below for some great children’s books that teach the concepts of geometry and shapes. Many of these books are available at your local public library.

Circus Shapes by Stuart J. Murphy

Icky Bug Shapes by Jerry Pallotta

Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins

The Village of Round and Square Houses by Ann Grifalconi

Shapes, Shapes, Shapes by Tana Hoban