



Related Activities to Try at Home (page 1 of 2)

Dear Family,

The activities suggested below are related to the geometry we are currently working on in school. Doing them together can enrich your child's learning.

Look Out for Shapes Look for different shapes in the environment. Where do you see rectangles and squares? How many triangles do you see? Can you find a trapezoid? How about a hexagon or an octagon? Are there some shapes within other shapes, such as panes in a window? Your child can also look for and make three-dimensional shapes by combining blocks, boxes, or other building materials.

Making Shapes Make shape pictures out of shapes cut from paper. Scrap paper and newspaper work fine. Cut a variety of shapes (for example, squares, rectangles, triangles, circles, and hexagons) for your child to glue onto a background. You might like to do this as a family mural, adding shapes over a period of time.

Where Are Arrays? Look for rectangles or arrays (for example, floor tiles, eggs in a carton, cans in a box, calendar grids, and window panes). Talk about the number of rows and columns that you see and use that to figure out the total number of items in each array. You can also draw new arrays. Take turns choosing the number of rows and columns. If an array has 3 rows and 6 columns, does it always look the same? How many different arrays can you make with 24 tiles?

(continued)



Related Activities to Try at Home (page 2 of 2)

Symmetry All Around Look for designs that are symmetrical around your house or outside your window. Can you find examples of mirror or reflective symmetry? Can you draw a design that is symmetrical? If your child has blocks, or other building toys, encourage exploring symmetry with three-dimensional shapes. Your child can make symmetrical constructions (e.g., ones that are the same on the left and right sides).

Math and Literature Here are some children's books that contain ideas related to our work in this geometry unit. You can find many of them in your local public library and read them together.

Burns, Marilyn. *The Greedy Triangle*

Friedman, Aileen. *A Cloak for the Dreamer*

Hoban, Tana. *Shapes, Shapes, Shapes*

Hutchins, Pat. *Clocks and More Clocks*

Greene, Rhonda Gowler. *When a Line Bends . . . A Shape Begins*

Murphy, Stuart J. *Math Start (Symmetry): Let's Fly a Kite*

Neuschwander, Cindy. *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table*

Pluckrose, Henry. *Math Counts: Shape*

Schulz, Charles M. *How to Draw Peanuts*

