



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

Dear Family,

The activities below are related to the mathematics in the geometry unit *Making Shapes and Designing Quilts*. Doing them at home together with your child can enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Shape Hunt Shapes are everywhere. Talk with your child about the shapes you see every day. Together, you can look at everything from the shapes of buildings in your neighborhood to the shapes of boxes and cans in the supermarket. Sometimes you can include descriptions of shapes in what you say: "Look at that part of the building shaped like a trapezoid." At other times, you can ask your child to look for specific shapes: "See how many things you can find that are triangles while we walk down the street."

Making Shapes Making shapes is a great way to learn about them. At home, your child may use clay or play dough, building blocks, drinking straws, or a loop of yarn or rope to make different shapes. Drawing shapes is also fun. Your child may like to design a picture or mural that includes many different shapes.

Seeing Shapes Inside Encourage your child to look for patterns or designs made from different shapes. For example, ask these questions: "Can you find squares on the floor (wallpaper, clothing, and so on)?" "Are there any patterns made from triangles?" "Do you see any hexagons?"

(continued)



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

Quick Images with Shapes In class, we have been doing an activity called *Quick Images*. In this activity, students look at a shape that is flashed before them for about 5 seconds, then try to draw the shape they saw. For homework, you and your child will play a version of the same activity. The sheet of four shapes for *Quick Images* can be cut apart or folded to show just one shape at a time. You or your child may also draw original shapes to use for this game. If you do this, you may need to experiment to find what kind of shape is simple enough to recall after a 5-second viewing.

Math and Literature Here are some suggestions of children's books that contain relevant ideas about geometry. Read them together and name the shapes you find.

Burns, Marilyn. *The Greedy Triangle*.

Felix, Monique. *The House*.

Friedman, Aileen. *A Cloak for the Dreamer*.

Hoban, Tana. *Shapes, Shapes, Shapes*.

Jonas, Ann. *The Quilt*.

Paul, Ann Whitford. *Eight Hands Round: A Patchwork Alphabet*.

Polacco, Patricia. *The Keeping Quilt*.

Rogers, Paul. *The Shapes Game*.

