

FAMILY ADVENTURES WITH MATH & SCIENCE

Family Adventures with . . . SHAPES (spatial sense) Other Activities

Simple

- Have children trace shapes with a finger (e.g., shapes found on toys, fabric, etc.).
- Discuss the shapes and number of items in the cart while at the grocery or other store.
- Play with puzzles, modeling clay, and other related toys to provide positive experiences with shapes and changes with shape.
- Help your child notice the shapes of food (e.g., crackers, sandwiches, spaghetti). Sandwiches can be cut into 2 rectangles, 4 squares, or 2 triangles.

Moderate

- ◆ Identify the shapes of the traffic signs with your child. Yield signs are triangles, highway signs are rectangles, and stop signs are octagons.
- ◆ Use different shapes to make designs on large pieces of paper or brown paper sacks. Color the designs and use for wrapping gifts.
- ◆ Play “Guess My Shape.” One person writes the name of or draws a shape on a piece of paper but doesn’t show it to the other person. The second person can ask up to 10 questions to try to guess the shape.

Challenging

- Before cooking rice (or beans), explore the amount of space the rice takes up in a tall thin container. Then pour it into short fat container (or different container). Guess if it will take up the same amount of space, less space, or more space. Were you surprised?
- Locate three-dimensional objects in the house. A sphere is shaped like a round ball. A cylinder is shaped like a soup can. A cone is shaped like a birthday party hat. A rectangular prism is shaped like a cereal box.