

By the end of Y1 your child should be able to recognise and name common 2D and 3D shapes using correct mathematical names. In Y2 they will be taught to identify and describe the properties of 2D shapes, including the number of sides and line symmetry; and to identify and describe the properties of 3D shapes, including the number of edges, vertices and faces. They will identify 2D shapes on the surface of 3D shapes, [for example, a circle on a cylinder and a triangle on a pyramid] and compare and sort common 2D and 3D shapes and everyday objects.

Children are often presented with regular shapes orientated with a straight edge parallel to the bottom of the page, and they may believe that that is the only way that shape can be, for example arguing that a square presented at an angle isn't a square anymore. They need to experience a whole range of irregular shapes, and know that a shape is still the same shape even when the orientation changes.

In KS1 your child will learn that flat/2D shapes are 'shapes I can draw' and solid/3D shapes are 'shapes I can hold'. Often, we incorrectly call plastic shapes circles or squares when they are really very thin cylinders

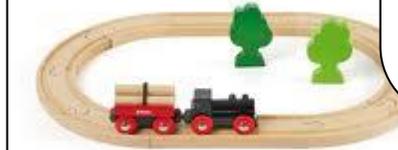


Have a shape hunt in your kitchen cupboard or in the toy box. Look out for spheres, ovoids, pyramids, cubes, cuboids, cylinders and if you've got a Toblerone handy, triangular prisms. Watch out for 2D shapes when you are out and about in the High Street or the park. Look for shapes that fit together to make patterns.

SHAPE

Eating your maths is always a good way to learn. Try cutting sandwiches into different shapes, or making triangular biscuits. A 'prism' is any solid shape that you can slice where every slice will be the same shape- swiss rolls, toblerone or batenburg cake are a good way to investigate this!

There are some excellent toys available that will help your child learn about shape. Polydron, Knex, Geomag and Spirograph are all good though can be



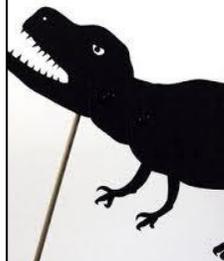
Playing with train tracks gives a great opportunity to talk about straight and curved lines, and joining up the track to make a shape. You can talk about train tracks being parallel.

Putting up a play tent is a good time to explore shape. You can talk about straight and curved poles and flat or curved surfaces. Being inside a shape is a great way to experience it! Building dens with big cardboard boxes is a fun way to learn about shape too.



Children start to learn about angle by exploring things that turn or pivot, like scissors or doors. Encourage your child to notice and talk about things that turn and pivot. Try making cardboard puppets that pivot using split pins, or when it snows, make some snow angels and look at the shape that turning makes.

Lots of art and craft activities help children to learn about shape. Be aware that commercially produced shapes will normally be regular ones. Try to include some irregular shapes into your art work. If you're good at sewing why not try some patchwork?



Take boxes apart when you're making models and look at the 'net'.

