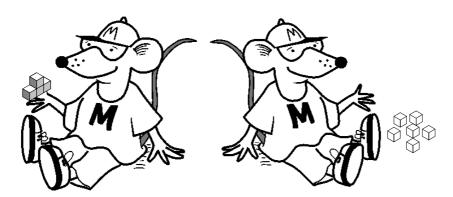
5502-04 Making shapes and patterns with increasing accuracy

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1. Here is a game you can play.



Sit with a partner like Divvy is doing with himself (only Maths Rats can do this!). Look away from each other.

Both partners have a pile of cubes. The first partner makes a shape with some cubes and describes the shape to the second partner. The second partner has to make the same shape with his or her bricks, without looking at the first partner's shapes.

Good luck!

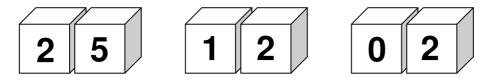
2.

Have you ever thought of making a calendar to show the date from cubes?





Make up some cubes and put a digit on each face. Use six of the cubes to show the date, like this:



Can you work out how many cubes you need? Remember, you can put six numbers on each cube.

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- **1.** This is very good practice at describing shapes. Children can be helped initially by giving them cubes of different colours, but later cubes of the same colour which need more description.
- **2.** As a good number of cubes are required, it is probably better to make this a group activity unless the children want a complete set as a present or for their own desk.

By carefully selecting which numbers go on which cubes, it is possible to reduce the number of cubes necessary, but children of this age would not normally be expected to carry out this minimisation, so accept any reasonable solution.