

**Suggestions for activities with 3-D shapes.**

**Throughout all this work, place great emphasis on the vocabulary of the names of the shapes plus words such as edge and face. A good grasp of the vocabulary in the early years will be a great asset in future mathematical education.**

1. Match the faces of one shape to the faces of another. Eg. Can you stand a square based pyramid on a cube so that the two square faces match?
2. Hide a shape behind your back. Two children take it in turns to ask questions about the shape until one works out its name.
3. Put several shapes on a tray. Remove one when the child's eyes are closed. The child then looks and tries to describe the **features** of the missing shape.
4. One child hides a shape and describes its features to another who has to guess which one it is.
5. Have a 'feely bag' in which you place two shapes. The child puts his/her hand inside and tries to identify the common features of the shapes.  
Eg. 'They both have six faces.'
6. Using Play dough or plasticine, copy two given shapes. Try to make them a certain size so that one fits on the other as in idea 1.
7. Push Play dough through a hole in a piece of plastic or 'posting' toy so that a prism is formed. Don't worry about the word 'prism' at this stage - that comes later!
8. Using hollow shapes, fill them with sand or water and pour the sand/water from one container to another. Count how many of one shape fill another.