

Suggestions for activities with 2-D shapes.

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

1. Match the edges of one shape to the edges of another. Eg. Can you fit a square next to a hexagon so that the two sides 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 three edges.'
6. Using Play dough or plasticine, copy two given shapes. Try to make them a certain size so that one fits next to the other as in idea 1.
7. Draw the shapes onto blank playing cards (or write the names for good readers). Lay out all the cards and match each of the cards to each one of a pile of shapes already on the table. How quickly can the child do this?
8. Examine patterns involving shapes on tiles, curtains and clothes. Try to reconstruct the simpler patterns with your shapes. These can be made from card or plasticine.