



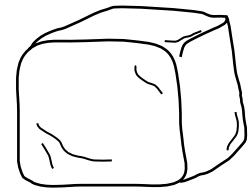
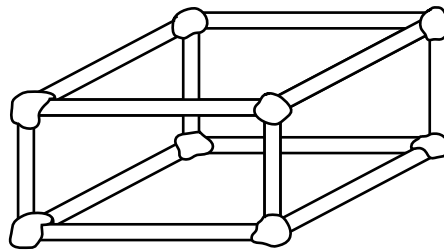
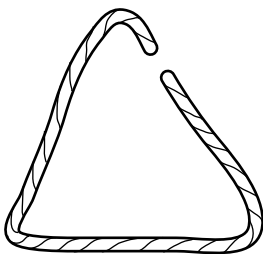
Related Activities to Try at Home (page 1 of 2)

Dear Family,

The activities below are related to the mathematics in the geometry unit, *Make a Shape, Build a Block*. Doing them at home together with your child can enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Shape Hunt Shapes are everywhere. Talk with your child about the shapes you see every day. Together, you can look at everything from the shapes of buildings in your neighborhood to the shapes of boxes and cans in the supermarket. Sometimes you can include descriptions of shapes in what you say. For example, "Look at that part of the building shaped like a trapezoid." At other times, you can ask your child to look for specific shapes: "See how many things you can find that are triangles while we walk down the street."

Making Shapes Making shapes is a great way to learn about them. At home, your child might use clay, building blocks, drinking straws, or a loop of yarn or rope to make different shapes.



Ask your child, "Can you make a shape with three sides? . . . Do you know what that shape is called?" Or, "Can you make a cube? . . . How many sides does it have?" Or, you can make different shapes and ask your child to name and describe them.

(continued)



Related Activities to Try at Home (page 2 of 2)

Drawing Shapes Drawing shapes is also fun. In class we have been making a class book of shapes and a shape mural. Your child might like to design his or her own shape book, picture, or mural using many different shapes that he or she has drawn or cut from old magazines.

Seeing Shapes Inside Shapes Encourage your child to look for patterns or designs made from different shapes. For example, ask: “Can you find squares on the floor (or wallpaper or clothing)?” or “Are there any patterns made from triangles?” or “Do you see any hexagons?”

Math and Literature Here are some suggestions of children’s books that contain relevant ideas about geometry. Read them together and talk about the shapes you find.

Angelou, Maya. *My Painted House*,

My Friendly Chicken, and Me

Burns, Marilyn. *The Greedy Triangle*

Dodds, Dayle Ann. *The Shape of Things*

Ehlert, Lois. *Color Zoo*

Falwell, Cathryn. *Shape Space*

Hoban, Tana. *Shapes, Shapes, Shapes*

Rogers, Paul. *The Shapes Game*

