

Get Into Shapes

Kindergarten – Grade 1

Introducing children to geometric principles can be as simple as helping them recognize how different shapes are used in common settings.

What to Do

- * At the store, ask your child questions to focus her attention on the shapes that you see. Ask her to find, for example, items that have circles or triangles on them or boxes that are in the form of a cube or a rectangular solid.
- * As you shop, point out shapes of products—rolls of paper towels, unusually shaped bottles, cookie boxes shaped like houses. Talk with your child about the shapes. Ask her why she thinks products, such as paper towels and packages of napkins, come in different shapes. Have her notice which shapes stack easily. Try to find a stack of products that looks like a pyramid.
- * Ask your child for reasons the shapes of products and packages are important to store owners. (*Some shapes stack more easily than others and can save space.*)

Before shopping trips, review different shapes with children by pointing them out in items around the house. Encourage them to use the correct name for each shape: square, rectangle, triangle, circle, cube, cylinder and so forth.