

Shape

Ideas for Parents - Class 3

Week 1 – Circle

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Find any objects in the kitchen which are a circle shape e.g. plates, saucers, and clocks.
- Talk about any food that can be a circle shape e.g. cakes, tarts, pancakes.

Mathematical Development

- Using sticky circle shapes, make a circle picture or pattern. Use the words “round” and “curved”.
- Try painting some circles using different colours. Paint some small ones and some big ones.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Go outside and look for circle shapes in nature.
- Talk about the sun and moon and their shape. Remember not to look at the sun and explain why. Talk about the changing shape of the moon. Does the sun make us happy or sad?

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Make cakes or tarts which have a round shape. Talk about how the mixture changes when it does in the oven.

- Look at one another’s eyes. What shape is the black bit in the middle? Try going to a dark room then putting the light on. See if you notice a change in the size of the “hole”.
- Make up some bubble mixture and try blowing bubbles (it might be easier to buy some mixture already made). Try to catch the bubbles. What shapes are they?

Physical Development

- If you can find enough people, play circle games e.g. (Here we go round the mulberry bush”, “Ring a ring of roses” and many more.
- See how far you can throw a Frisbee.

Creative Development

- Find some round objects to print with e.g. cotton reels, tubes, cups. Use different coloured paint to make an interesting circle picture.
- Look at some musical instruments that are round e.g. tambourines, drums. What sounds do they make?
- Play some music on a CD player. Discuss the shape of the CDs.

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Week 2 – Triangle

Communication, Language & Literacy

- Buy some soft triangular cheeses (or similar) and before you eat them talk about their shape. To make a true triangle cut the curved side straight. You might be able to buy some savoury biscuits that are triangular.
- Go outside and look at the roof of your house and any other roofs. Can you see any triangular shapes?

Mathematical Development

- Make patterns with triangle shapes. Use gummed shapes to make pictures.
- Punch holes in each corner of a triangle. Thread with laces or wool.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- In the Mr Men books there is a story called Mr Rush and he is triangular in shape. He rushes around everywhere. Imagine yourself as a triangle. What would you call yourself? Give ideas to your children

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

When you go out, notice all the triangular road signs. Talk about the colours and explain what you mean.

Physical Development

- Make some homemade triangular (and circular) road signs.
- If you have a tricycle then explain that it has three wheels and the beginning of the word tricycle is the same a triangle.
- Ride in and out of the signs.
- Make some biscuits and use shape cutters.

Creative Development

- Using a large green triangle as background, cut out small triangles to stick on so that it looks like an evergreen tree. Add a rectangle for the trunk.
- If available listen to the sound of a triangle instrument. Experiment with beaters, making the sound prolonged or flat.

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Week 3 – Square

Communication, Language and Literacy

“Elmer the Patchwork Elephant” is one of the most popular stories for children. Try to obtain a copy and talk about all the “squares” that Elmer has on his body. Discuss the colours too.

Mathematical Development

- Talk about the properties of a square i.e. it has four sides that are all the same length.
- Try to find objects in the home that are squares e.g. cushions, seats, windows, rugs.
- Play a board game e.g. snakes and ladders where the board is made up of squares.
- Look at a set of dominoes. Are there any squares on the dominoes?
- Count the corners on a square.

Personal, Social and Emotional

- Talk about why Elmer was different from the other elephants. Was he happy or sad? How did he get his colours?

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Use flat (2D) squares to build a house. Use triangles for the roof. What could you use circles for?
- Using gummed shapes make a lorry using squares for the body and circles for the wheels. Can you make any other vehicles?
- If you have building blocks then make a block of flats using cubes. Talk about how many square shapes there are on a cube.

Physical Development

- If possible draw a hopscotch outside and show how to hop over the squares.
- If you have a patio made from square slabs play a jumping or hopping game.

Creative Development

- Use paint suitable for finger painting. Draw squares on a large piece of paper. Make an interesting pattern. Using a paintbrush fill in the squares “painted” with the finger.

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Week 4 – Rectangle

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Have a selection of books available and before looking at them or reading them talk about the shape. Most of them will be rectangular in shape.
- Drawing/painting paper will also be rectangular.

Mathematical Development

- Look at different houses and/or pictures of houses. Can you see any rectangles? Count them.
- Inside, look at shapes of tables, worktops, beds etc. What other items are rectangular in shape?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Use building blocks, lego etc to build a house. At the same time talk about the houses that the Three Little Pigs made. Ask questions about how the pigs felt when their homes were destroyed and how the pig who built the house of bricks felt.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Continue with the theme of building houses and extend it to flats. Talk about houses that don't have stairs and schools/nurseries that they might attend.

Physical Development

Make some dough so that children can roll out the pastry in a rectangular shape. Make a large tart, put jam in and cook in the oven. When cooked it can be cut into smaller rectangular shapes.

Creative Development

Use pan scrubs (rectangular ones) and using the sponge part let the children print with them. Other sponges can be cut into different sized rectangles.

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Week 5 – Shape combinations at Christmas time

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Talk about Christmas and why we send Christmas cards.
- Read some stories about how children in other countries celebrate Christmas.
- Make a list for Father Christmas.

Mathematical Development

Count how many children you need to buy Christmas presents for. Do the same for Christmas cards.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Visit the Post Office to post cards and presents.
- Post the letter to Father Christmas.
- Think about how to decorate your children's room.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Visit a place where Christmas trees grow. Look at the different shapes and sizes. Choose a tree to put in your home. Talk about how tall it is. It still needs looking after when you get the tree home, so discuss what you need to do to stop the 'needles' from falling off.
- Talk about the weather at Christmas. Draw some snowflakes.

Physical Development

- Children will enjoy participating in making Christmas puddings and Christmas cakes as they need stirring.
- Roll the pastry for mince pies and choose two different sized cutters, one for the bottom and one for the top.
- Help to wrap Christmas presents with Christmas wrapping paper.

Creative Development

- Decorate Christmas cards with triangles for trees and circles and squares for decorations. Use a rectangle for the trunk.
- Buy glitter and foil shapes to add sparkle to the cards.
- Make paper chains to decorate a child's bedroom.
- Make a bright star for the Christmas tree.