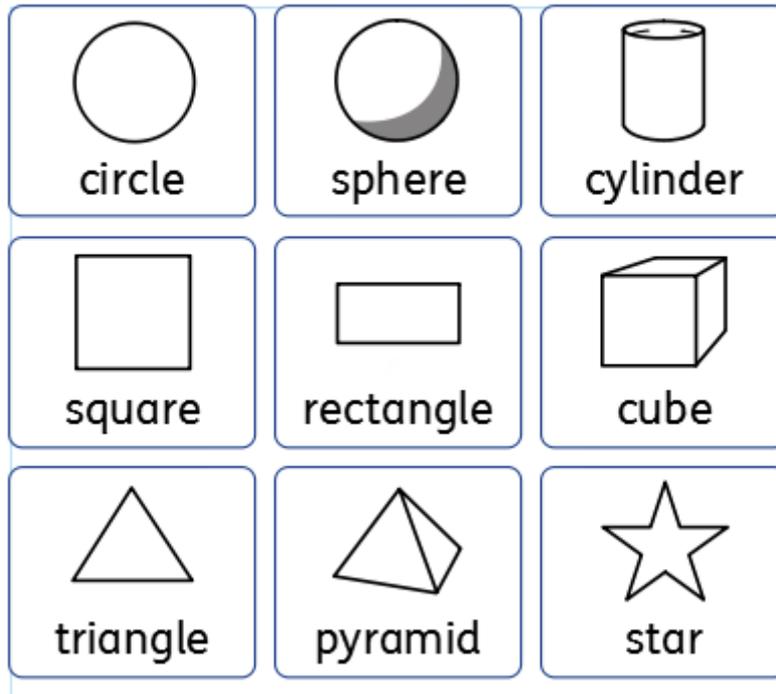


Ideas for Exploring Shape and Space in Maths.

Students can learn by exploring and observing in a range of maths play activities with a focus on shapes and space.

The idea is to create opportunities to explore different shapes items and shapes that can be created. Where appropriate support this exploration using simple vocabulary such as circle, square, triangle, cube, sphere, pyramid, big, small, etc but the main emphasis is on the exploration learning and having fun.



Focuses for learning:

1. Understanding object permanence - knowing that an object continues to exist even when it is out of sight.
2. Developing skills for “looking” backwards / forwards between two objects
3. Making choices from two or more items.
4. Explore the properties of everyday objects in terms of their shape
5. Demonstrate an interest in the relationship between objects such as by joining or stacking them
6. Explore and show an interest in the properties of 2D and 3D shapes

I hope you have fun with these activities and if you have any photos you would like to share or any other ideas for exploring maths then we would love to see them

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Feely Bag of Different Shapes

Fill a shopping or draw string bag with a range of different shape items such as plastic cups, small boxes, bricks, balls, toilet roll tubes, etc. Let your young person feel and explore what they can find.

To challenge further show them an item and see if they can feel in the bag to find one the same without looking.



Making Shapes with Salt Dough

Making salt dough is a really fun and easy activity. Use it to make different shape items using cutters or items you can find in the home or have fun using items to print patterns into the dough. The dough can be baked and painted afterwards if you like or seal it in a bag and use it again for the next lesson. Please remember that although the ingredients are safe the salt dough is not really edible.

- 1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g)
- ½ a cupful of table salt (about 125g)
- ½ a cupful of water (about 125ml)

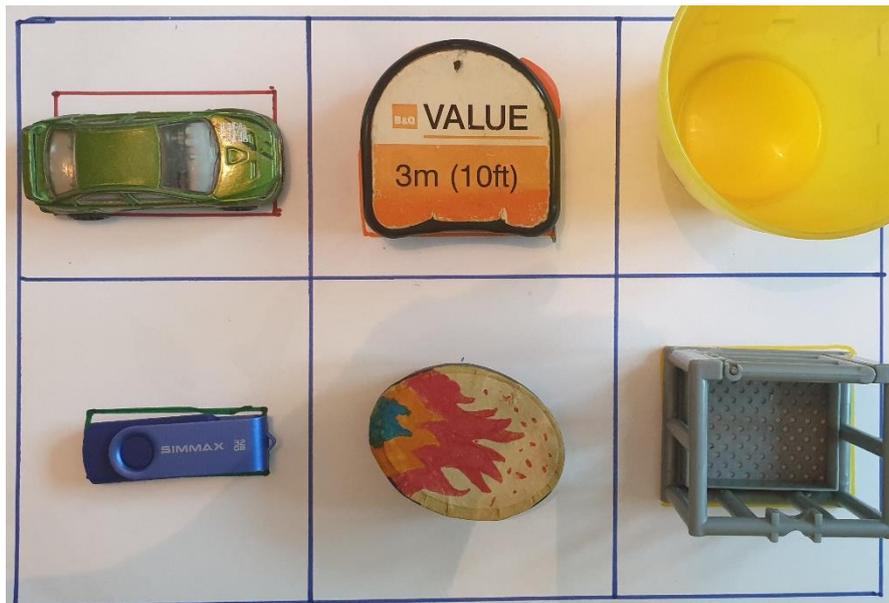
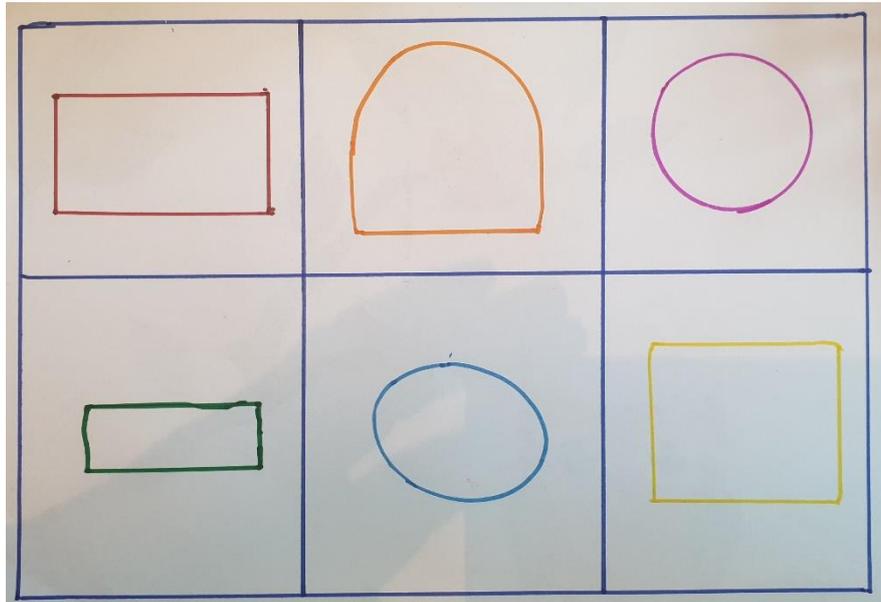
Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add the water and stir until it comes together into a ball. Add food colouring if you want your dough to be coloured but remember food colouring can stain.

Have fun exploring the shapes and patterns you can make with your dough.

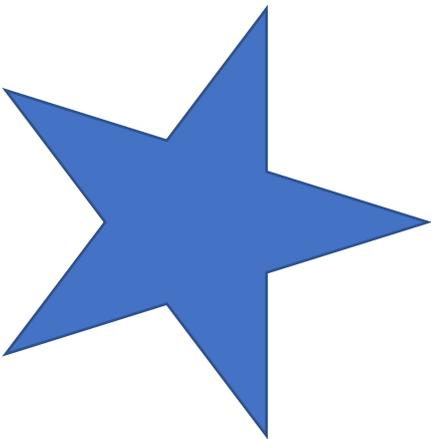
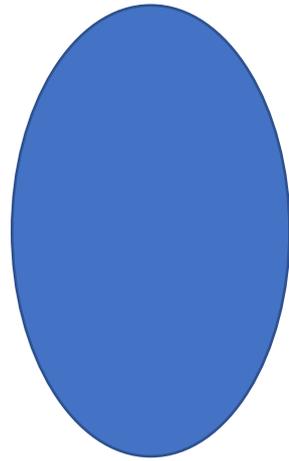
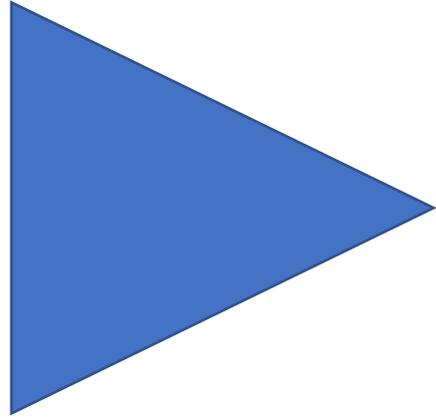
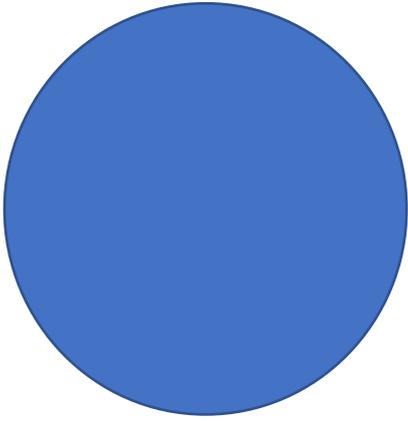
If you want to bake your dough to keep your items preheat the oven to its lowest setting and line a baking sheet with baking parchment. Put your finished items on the lined baking sheet and bake for 3 hrs on the lowest setting or until solid. Leave to cool and then paint.

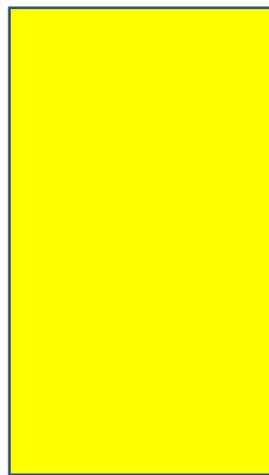
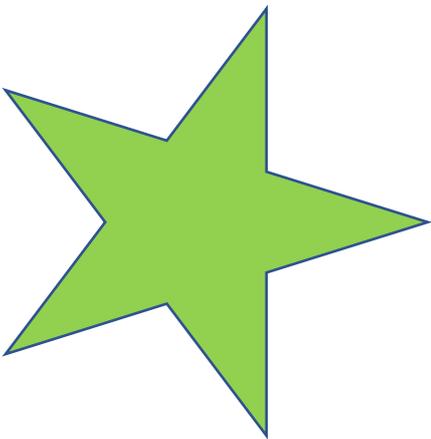
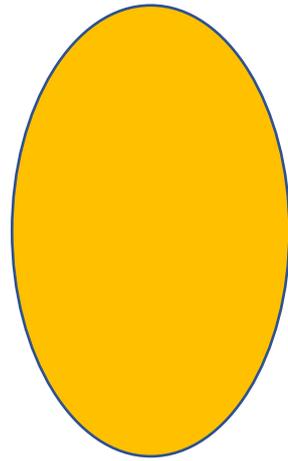
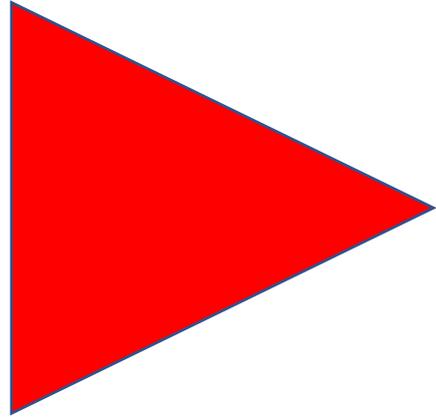
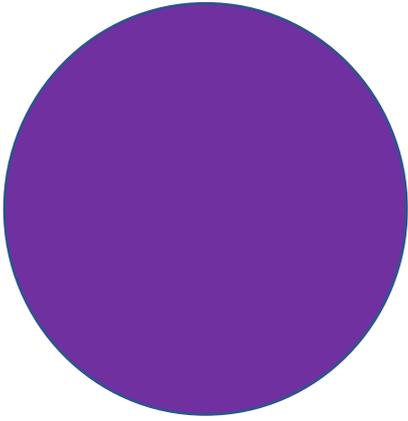


Make a Shape BINGO game

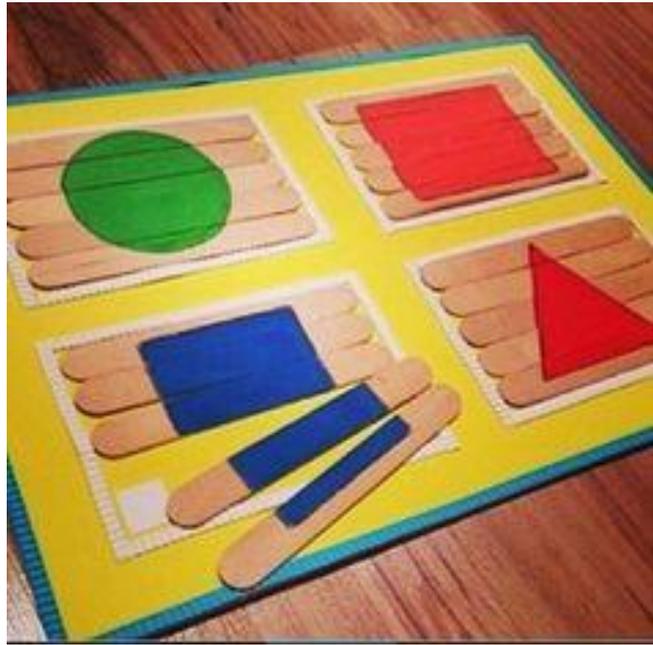


Find items in your house and draw around them on a grid. See if you can match the different items to their different shape outlines or you can print the grids on the next sheets to make a shape bingo game.





Make Lollystick Puzzles



Use lollysticks to explore making shapes. Count the sides and edges. Use the symbols to name them. If you don't have lollysticks you can use strips of paper or card from cereal boxes.

Draw shapes on lollysticks and put them together to make the shape. Again, use the symbol to label it and count the corners and edges.

Explore Drawing Shapes in Shaving Foam



Spread shaving foam on a table or in a tray, draw shapes or draw around items to make shapes. Can you name them or label them with the symbols? Can your young person copy a shape you draw? Let them draw a shape for you to copy too. Count the edges and corners again.

Lego Shape Matching



Draw around Lego, Duplo or other bricks to make shapes. See if your young person can match bricks to the different shape outlines.