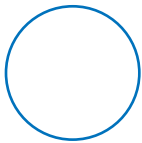
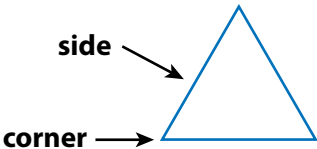


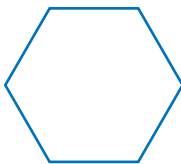
Shapes

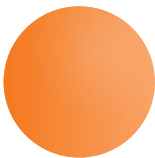
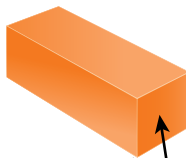


Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to name and describe shapes.

Circles have no sides and no corners. 	Triangles have 3 sides and 3 corners. 	Rhombuses have 4 equal sides and 4 corners. 
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Rectangles have 4 sides and 4 square corners. 	Squares have 4 equal sides and 4 square corners. 	Hexagons have 6 sides and 6 corners. 
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sphere 	cone 	rectangular prism 	cylinder 	cube 
--	--	---	--	--

Learning to name and describe shapes based on their sides, corners, faces, and edges will help your child recognize and classify both familiar and unfamiliar shapes in school and in real life.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about naming and describing shapes by doing the following activity together.



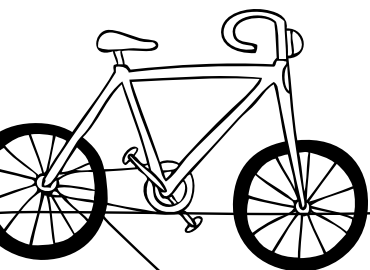
Activity Naming and Describing Shapes

Do this activity with your child to practice naming shapes.

Materials household items of various shapes, paper and pencil

Tell your child that you are going on a shape hunt.

- Together, look around your home and neighborhood for objects shaped like triangles, rectangles, squares, hexagons, and rhombuses. You can refer to these as *flat shapes*.
- Make a list of these shapes, and write the name of each object you find next to the appropriate shape name. See how many objects you can find for each shape.
- Each time you add an object to the list, have your child explain how he or she knows what shape it is. For example, if your child is explaining that a picture frame is a rectangle, he or she might say, "A rectangle has four sides and four square corners."
- Make another list of *solid shapes* that includes sphere, cone, rectangular prism, cylinder, and cube. See how many objects you can find for each of these shapes. Your child may notice that some of the solid shapes have flat shapes as their faces.
- In addition to looking for objects around your home and neighborhood, you may also look for pictures of shapes in magazines, in picture books, and on packaged food items.



Putting Shapes Together

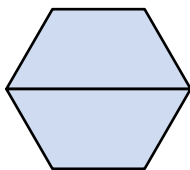


Dear Family,

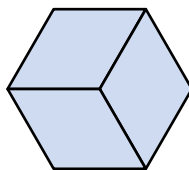
This week your child is learning to put shapes together to make other shapes.

The hexagons below are made by putting together other shapes.

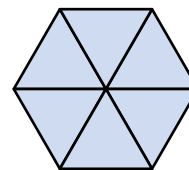
Three ways to make a hexagon:



2 **trapezoids**



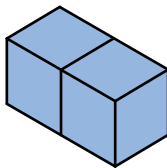
3 rhombuses



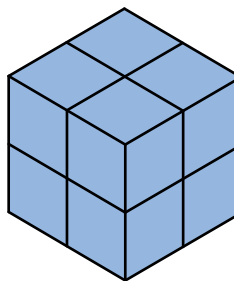
6 triangles

The rectangular prisms below are also made by putting together other shapes.

Two ways to make a rectangular prism:



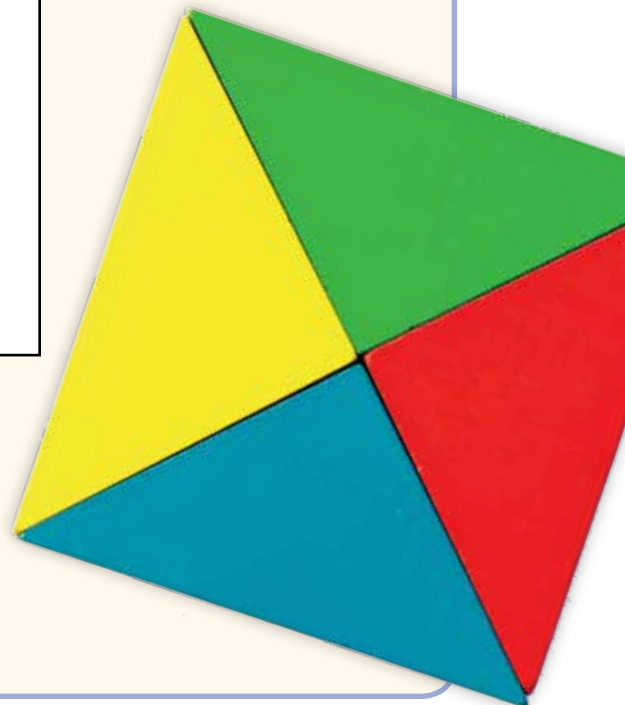
2 cubes



8 cubes

Composing shapes in this way will help your child understand patterns and practice identifying shapes. It will also help prepare your child to learn about equal parts and fractions.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about putting shapes together to make other shapes by doing the following activity together.



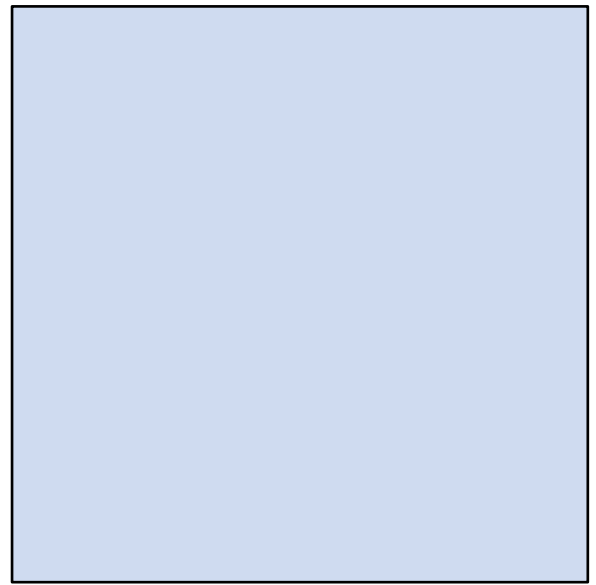
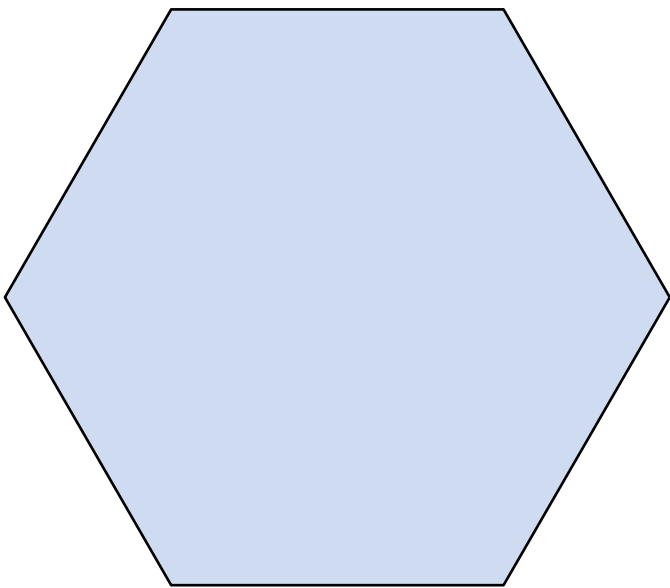
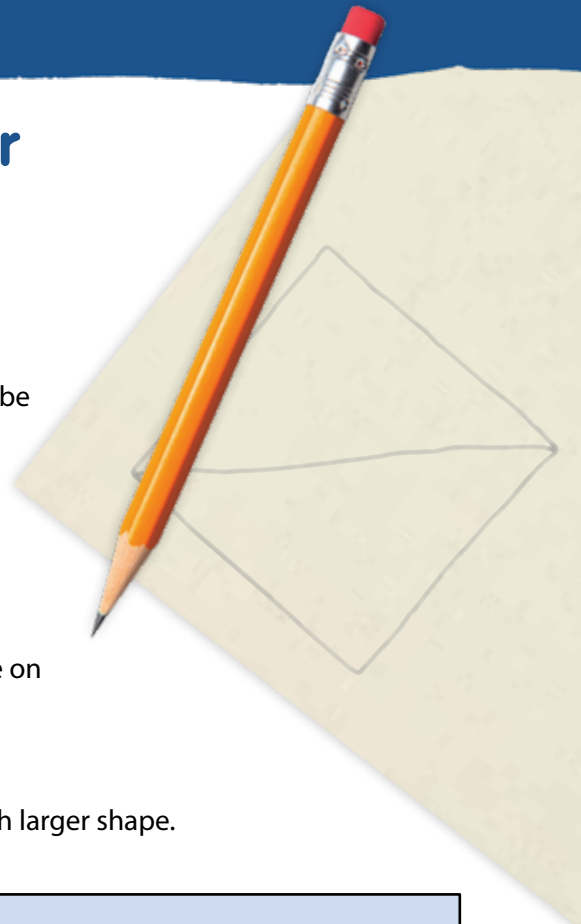
Activity Putting Shapes Together

Do this activity with your child to explore putting shapes together.

Materials paper and pencil, crayons or markers (optional)

To prepare for this activity, trace each of the shapes below twice.

- On one set of shapes, ask your child draw a line to show how the shape can be made by putting together two other shapes.
- Ask your child to name or describe the two shapes that make the larger shape. For example, if your child drew a line from one corner of the square to the opposite corner, he or she should tell you that two triangles make the square.
- Then on the second set of shapes, ask your child to draw more than one line on each shape to show how it can be made from more than two other shapes.
- Again, ask your child to name the shapes that make each larger shape.
- Your child may wish to create designs by coloring the shapes that make each larger shape.



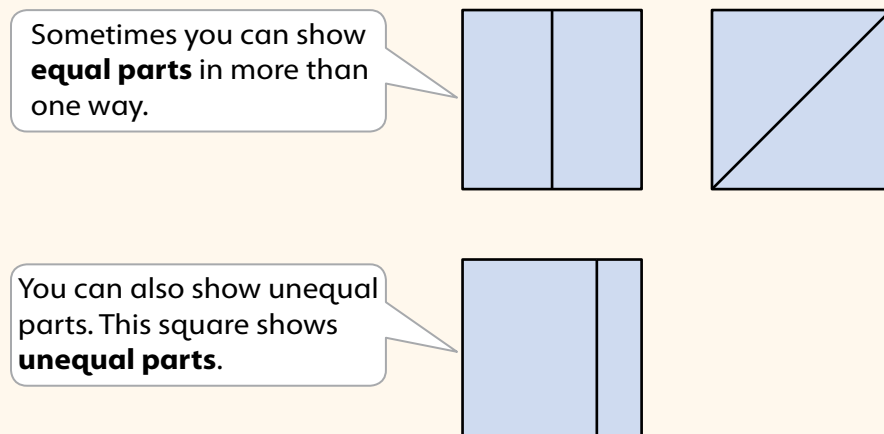
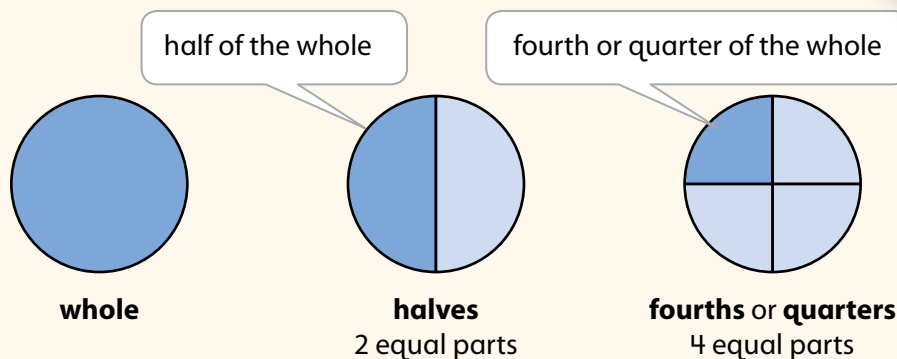
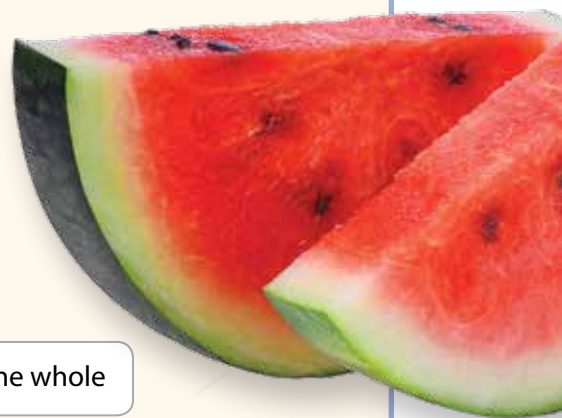
Understand Breaking Shapes into Equal Parts



Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring equal parts of shapes.

Your child will learn to divide circles, squares, and rectangles into halves and fourths. Your child will also learn how to put halves and fourths together to make circles, squares, and rectangles. This will help your child prepare to work with fractions in later grades.



Invite your child to share what he or she knows about dividing shapes into equal parts by doing the following activity together.

Activity Breaking Shapes into Equal Parts

Do this activity with your child to practice working with equal parts of shapes.

Materials paper, pencil, scissors, and crayons or markers

Tell your child that you are going to pretend to divide food shapes into equal parts to share.

- Trace two copies of the circle and square below. Cut out each shape.
- Have your child color each shape to look like a food item. For example, a circle can be colored to look like a pizza or pancake. A square can be colored to look like a sandwich or cracker.
- Ask your child to fold one of the circles to make two equal parts so that each person sharing the “food” gets the same amount. Watch to see that your child folds the circle in half, and provide assistance as needed. Have your child trace the fold line with a crayon or marker. Ask what the equal parts are called (halves). Repeat with one of the squares.
- Then ask your child to fold the remaining circle to make four equal parts so that four people can share. Your child should fold the circle in half, and then in half again. Ask what the equal parts are called (fourths or quarters). Repeat with the remaining square.

