

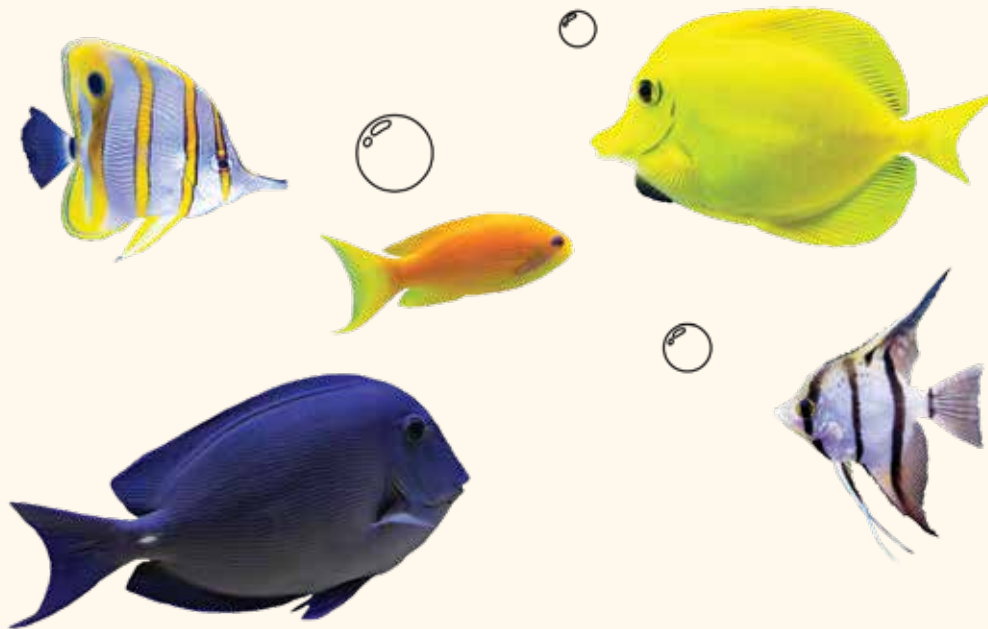
Sort and Count Objects

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to sort objects.

Actual objects and pictures of objects can be **sorted** by attributes such as color, shape, size, and weight. After sorting objects into different categories, your child will count how many are in each group and compare the groups using language such as *same*, *equal*, *more than*, *fewer than*, and *less than*.

For example, the fish below can be sorted into the following categories: big and small, striped and solid, swimming left and swimming right. Also, there are more solid fish than striped fish, and there are fewer big fish, than small fish.



Sorting objects into groups, as well as counting and comparing the numbers of objects in each group, will help your child prepare to work with charts and graphs in later grades.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about sorting objects by doing the following activity together.



Activity Sorting Objects

Do this activity with your child to practice sorting and counting objects.

Materials 8 to 10 objects that can be sorted by size, color, shape, and/or other attributes (such as buttons, beads, blocks, coins, or dried beans)

- Give your child 8 to 10 objects of at least two different shapes, colors, and/or sizes. They should be able to be sorted two different ways, such as by size and then by color.
- Ask your child to sort some or all of the objects into two groups. If needed, you can suggest sorting by shape, color, or size. Encourage your child to tell you about the groups. Ask him or her how many are in each group and which group has more or fewer.
- Then ask your child to sort some or all of the objects into two groups in a different way. For example, if the objects are first sorted by color, they can then be sorted by size. Discuss what the new groups look like.
- For an additional challenge, add objects of a different shape, color, or size and ask your child to sort the objects into three groups.



Big Beads



Small Beads



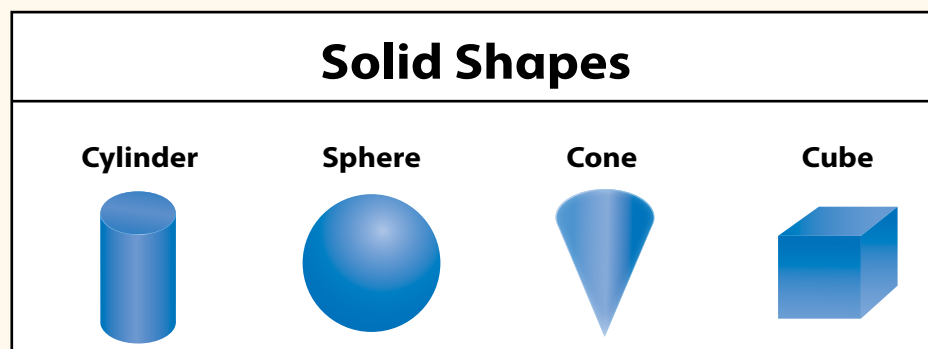
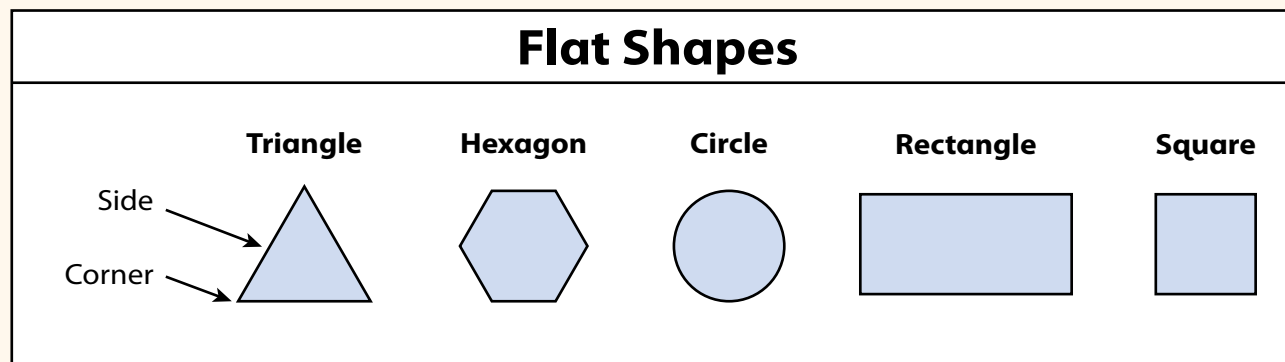
Name Shapes



Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to name shapes.

Your child will also learn some of the ways to describe shapes. For example, **triangles, hexagons, rectangles, squares,** and **cubes** have **corners** and straight **sides**. A hexagon has 6 sides, and a square has 4 sides of equal length. **Circles, cylinders, spheres,** and **cones** have curves. Learning some of the ways to describe shapes will help your child identify and distinguish between different shapes.



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

Activity Naming Shapes

Do this activity with your child to practice naming shapes.

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

- Together, look around your home and neighborhood for objects shaped like rectangles, squares, triangles, hexagons, and circles. In addition, look for objects shaped like cylinders, spheres, cones, and cubes. You may wish to bring this letter so that you can use the shapes on the other side as a reference.
- Encourage your child to name the shapes you find.
- You can make a chart to keep track of how many objects you find of each shape.



Compare Shapes



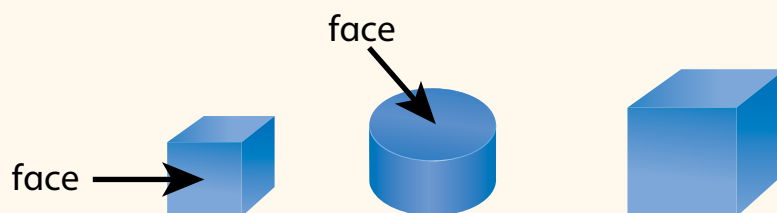
Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to compare shapes.

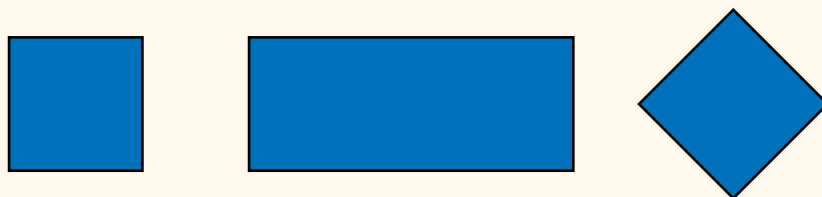
In order to compare shapes, you need to think about their attributes. For example, the cylinders, cones, and spheres below are alike because they are solid shapes that can roll.



Some solid shapes are alike because they can stack, such as the three shapes below. The first and third shapes, which are cubes, are most alike because they each have 6 square faces. A flat surface of a solid shape is called a **face**.



When comparing flat shapes, such as those below, you can compare the number of sides and the lengths of sides. For example, each shape below has 4 sides. But only the first and third shapes, which are squares, have all sides of equal length.



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



Activity Comparing Shapes

Do this activity with your child to compare shapes.

Materials 1 household object shaped like a cylinder (such as a food can), 1 household object shaped like a cube (such as a toy block or cube-shaped tissue box), 1 household object shaped like a sphere (such as a ball), paper and pencil

Place the objects shaped like a cylinder, cube, and sphere on the floor for your child (so that you do not have to worry about objects rolling off the table). Ask him or her questions about the shapes, such as the following:

1. Which shapes roll?
2. Which shapes stack?
3. Which shape has corners?
4. Which shape has faces that are squares?
5. Which shape has faces that are circles?

Have your child hold the cylinder and then the cube on a sheet of paper while you trace around one face of each object. Ask your child to name the flat shapes you drew (circle and square) and tell you how they are alike and different. Encourage your child to use the circle and square to make a drawing or design.



Answers: 1. cylinder and sphere; 2. cylinder and cube;
3. cube; 4. cube; 5. cylinder