

**Learning Focus—Exploring Shape**

This module gives your child experiences with identifying, describing, and sorting three-dimensional (3D) objects, identifying, describing, and sorting two-dimensional (2D) shapes, and working with one whole and parts of a whole.

Identify common 3D objects

Children investigate and explore 3D objects using everyday items made from different materials. Age-appropriate words such as *ball* (sphere), *box* (cube and prism), *can* (cylinder), or *pointed shape* (cone and pyramid) can be used to name objects.



While driving, ask your child to look for different kinds of 3D objects: spheres, cubes, cylinders, and pyramids.

Describe and sort 3D objects

As children learn about 3D objects, they start evaluating the features of each object and making sense of new descriptive terms (*flat, round, corner, can stack, can roll*) and use them to describe and sort objects.



At home, encourage your child to find various 3D objects and describe them.

Identify common 2D shapes

Children have had experiences with 2D shapes their entire lives. When learning about 2D shapes, children explore the faces of 3D objects to find the squares, rectangles, circles, and triangles.



At home, hide various 2D shapes around the house and play hide and seek with them.

Describe and sort 2D shapes

Two-dimensional shapes vary widely, so children need to understand that certain basic features define a shape. For example, every triangle has three sides and three corners, though the lengths of the sides may vary.



At breakfast, make or cut food into different shapes (circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles) and ask your child to describe the defining features of each shape.

Identify one whole and describe parts of a whole

Fractions are an essential building block to understanding algebra and beyond. Children start by learning basic fraction concepts, such as parts of a whole. The concepts of equal shares and written fractions are left for later years. Children use puzzles to take wholes apart and put them back together, illustrating the relationship of parts to whole. Puzzles exercise spatial reasoning skills, and completing puzzles independently is vital for later geometry and fractions.



During meals, give your child a chance to use a plastic knife to cut their food into parts, or talk about cutting their food into pieces for them to eat.

Please help by sending the following:

- 3D containers such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes, chip cans, party hats, and so on Child-friendly magazines, catalogs, and mailers