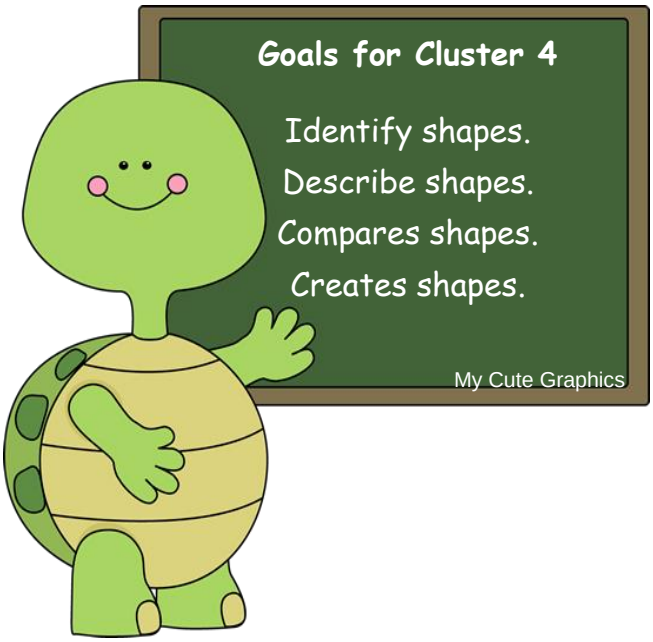
Kindergarten Family Letter
Identifying, Describing, Classifying, and Composing Shapes

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our class will identify, describe, sort, and build shapes. We will explore two-dimensional (flat) shapes and three-dimensional (solid) shapes. During this time, our class will use vocabulary to identify and describe the attributes of shapes. We will also discuss ways shapes are the same and different.



As your child's teacher, I will provide hands-on activities with a variety of materials so experiences are meaningful and personal. Students will also have opportunities to make learning personal as they notice and describe shapes from their own lives. As students describe these shapes, they will recognize that shapes may be in a variety of colors, shapes, and positions. For example, a triangle is still a triangle even when it is turned upside down.

Your Partner in Learning,

_____

Shapes Kindergartners Learn



Triangle


Circle


Square


Rectangle


Hexagon
(6-sided shape)


Cone


Sphere


Cube


Cylinder

Kindergarten identify shapes in everyday locations such as school and home

How can parents help?

- Go on a shape hunt. Find examples of shapes in the house, backyard, or while taking a road trip. Take turns naming shapes, and describing them. For example: *I see the stop light is a circle because its round. Can you find a circle as we drive?*
- Watch Shapes Song and Shapes Song 2 from KidsTv123.
- Play Starfall's Shapes in the Environment game.

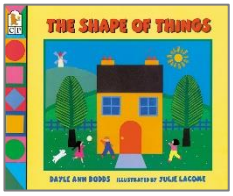


Picture from www.StarFall.com

Kindergartners identifying shapes based on descriptions such as "3 corners & 3 sides".

How can parents help?

- Take turns playing "I Spy". Provide a description of a mystery object, and have your child guess based on the description. For example: *I spy something that is red, has four sides and four corners.*
- As a family, watch Secret Agent Shapes, and play along!
- Read books about shapes:



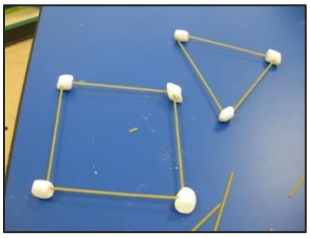
  - ***I Spy*** by Walker Wick
  - ***I Spy Shapes in Art*** by Lucy Micklethwait
  - ***The Shape of Things*** by Dale Ann Dodds

Kindergartners compare shapes, describing their similarities and differences.

How can parents help?

- Find opportunities to notice and wonder about shapes.
  - *I notice this soup can is a cylinder. I wonder if there are other cylinders in the kitchen.*
  - *I notice this triangle has three sides. I wonder how many sides a square has.*
- Play online shapes games:
  - Compare Sides and Corners from MathGames.com
  - Compare 2D and 3D shapes from Education.com

Kindergarteners draw and build two- and three-dimensional shapes.



How can parents help?

- Use items such as clay, popsicle sticks, and straws to build shapes. Ask your child to describe and identify each shape.

Remember, the choices we make today SHAPE the people we become tomorrow.

- Victoria Osteen