

FAMILY MATH

Analyze and Name Three-Dimensional Shapes

Dear Families,

Your child is learning to describe three-dimensional, or solid, shapes. This includes learning to distinguish between flat and solid shapes, naming the shapes, and counting faces, edges, and corners. In class, students use their own words as well as math language to describe the features of solid shapes. They begin to match solid shapes to the flat shapes that they see in them.

Words We Are Learning

flat shape

solid shape

pyramid

sphere

cube

cone

rectangular prism

cylinder



A student sorts by flat and solid shapes and then matches a number to each group.



A student looks at a group of objects and finds the solid shapes that they resemble.

At-Home Activities

Activity Idea 1 Almost or Exactly Like Shape Search

Cut out the six solid shape cards. Ask your child to pick a card and to look for an object that is *almost* like that shape. Then ask your child to find an object that is *exactly* like that shape. Have your child share why the object is *exactly* or *almost* like that shape. Now you take a turn and share why it is exactly or almost like that shape.

For example: *Exactly* like a sphere: a baseball, a soccer ball. *Almost* like a sphere: a pair of socks rolled up, a blueberry, a piece of puffed cereal.

Activity Idea 2 Find Another One

Use the real-world solid shape cards to play this game. Start by shuffling the cards and spreading them out picture side down. Take turns picking up two cards at a time to see if

they show the same type of solid shape. This game uses only the cylinder, rectangular prism, and sphere. If the cards match the same solid shape, you keep them. If they don't match, put them back facedown. Describe why the photos match or do not by using language about the features.

For example: If you choose the photos of the book and box on your turn, you might say, "These are rectangular prisms. They both have 6 faces and 8 corners."

What Makes a Solid Shape?

Students learn these features for each shape.



CYLINDER
2 round or circle faces
No corners
Smooth around middle
Looks like a can



CONE
1 round or circle face
1 tip



SPHERE
No edges or faces
No corners or tips
Rolls like a ball

**PYRAMID**

1 square face

4 corners

4 triangle faces

1 tip (can be called a corner)

**RECTANGULAR PRISM**

6 faces that are all rectangles (2 are square rectangles in these examples)

12 edges

8 corners

Looks like a brick

**CUBE**

6 square faces

12 edges the same size

8 corners

Looks like a box



Solid Shapes



Real-World Solid Shapes

