

Finding 3D Shapes in Your Home

Key points

- In Reception (the first year of primary school), children learn to name 3D shapes like cubes, spheres, and cylinders.
- 3D shapes are 'solid' objects that we can hold, unlike 2D shapes which are flat drawings on paper.
- Children often call a sphere a 'circle' or a cube a 'square' while they are still learning the new names.
- Learning involves feeling the shapes to find flat faces, curved surfaces, edges, and corners.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and the goal is to explore shapes through play.

Things to try at home

- Go on a 'shape hunt' around the room to find things like balls (spheres) or cereal boxes (cuboids).
- Let your child close their eyes and feel a household object to guess if it is round like a cylinder or pointy like a cone.
- Roll a ball or a tin across the floor to see which shapes can roll and which ones slide.
- Use playdough or recycled materials to make your own simple 3D shapes together.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework
- Your school's parent handbook or newsletter