

Shapes Hunt: Spotting Circles, Squares and Triangles Around the Home

Key points

- In Reception, children work towards Early Learning Goals, including noticing and naming simple 2D shapes such as circles, squares and triangles.
- Children learn shapes best through play and everyday noticing, not through drilling or formal lessons.
- Everyday objects like plates, windows, clocks and doors are full of shapes to spot together.
- There's no need for special equipment; a short, playful chat during a walk around the house or garden is enough.
- Every child moves at their own pace, and this can vary even more for children with SEND or those still learning English, so keep it light and follow their lead.
- If you'd like to know how shape learning is going for your child, their teacher is the best person to ask, as approaches can vary between schools.

Things to try at home

- Go on a 'shape hunt' around one room, naming any circles, squares or triangles you spot together.
- Play 'I spy a shape' on a walk, in the car, or at the shops.
- Talk about shapes you see while doing everyday jobs, such as setting the table or sorting the washing.
- Build simple pictures or patterns together using shaped objects like boxes, tins or blocks.
- Point out and name shapes in picture books as you read together at bedtime.

Find out more

- GOV.UK: Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework, for an overview of what children learn in Reception.
- Your child's teacher or Reception class page, who can explain how shapes are taught at your child's school.
- GOV.UK: Help your child at primary school, for general tips on supporting learning at home.