Preschool Math - March 2015

This month's content is designed to help children recognize and identify 3D shapes (cone, cube, sphere, cylinder). If you have friends who still need support identifying 2D shapes, please revisit the October 2014 Math Centers, too.

Week of March 2nd - Cone

Circle time or small group -- Pass a party hat around as you sing:

Cone Song (tune: London Bridge)

A cone is like a party hat,
A party hat,
A party hat,
A cone is like a party hat,
Come and join the fun!



Demonstrate rolling paper and using tape to secure it to make cones. Invite children to decorate their cones, which can be used as party hats.

To connect to the theme, ask "Let's imagine! What could this cone be?" (party hat? Bouquet holder? Castle turret?)

Week of March 9th- Cube

Circle time or small group - Pass a box around as you sing:

Cube Song (tune: Farmer in the Dell)

A cube is like a box, A cube is like a box Heigh-ho This I know, A cube is like a box.



"It's not a box, it's a cube!"

Block play naturally includes 3D shapes. Create a blocks center that includes only cubes and cones (use actual blocks but also add empty boxes and paper hats that you have taped off to seal the bottoms). Invite children to build and use tablets to take photos of their creations.

Extend this play by creating and duplicating simple patterns: "Cube, cone, cube, cone..."

Week of March 16th- Sphere

Circle time or small group - Pass a ball around as you sing:

Sphere Song (tune: Farmer in the Dell)

A sphere is like a ball.

A sphere is like a ball. Heigh-ho this I know,

A sphere is like a ball.

Provide playdough and show children how to roll it around on the table or between their hands to create spheres. Work on 1 to 1 correspondence and count how many spheres you can make!

Week of March 23rd- Cylinder

Circle Time or small group - Pass a can around as you sing:

Cylinder Song (tune: Farmer in the Dell)

A cylinder is like a can.

A cylinder is like a can.

Heigh-ho this I know.

A cylinder is like a can.

Add cylinders (paper towel tubes and oatmeal canisters work well!) to multiple centers this week. Challenge children to use math talk (name the 3D shape) as they play.

- Use cylinders to build towers, castles, and other creative creations in the blocks center.
- Use cylinders and paint to make prints or to create 3D sculptures in the art center.
- Use cylinders (rollers) to roll playdough.

Week of March 30th- Review

Circle time or small group: Review 3D shapes this week by singing all 4 songs that the children have been learned this month.

Extend by using a "mystery bag" filled with 3D props and use it to prompt to students' recall: "If you're holding a cube, stand up!"

- 1 Hide a variety of 3D blocks and props in your rice bin; challenge children to find and name them. Extend by creating a master I Spy list on paper or a tablet so children know they've found every object.
- 2 Collect several 3D blocks; place a star sticker on the bottom of a few. To play, each child chooses a block and names the 3D shape. If the shape has a star, the child gets to "make a wish" a fun way to extend the Imagine That theme!

Concept Development: 3D Shapes