



Daily Opportunities to Explore Shapes

Routines

Explore shapes during mealtime.



Notice and name shapes of the food during meals.

"Are the crackers squares or circles? They are squares. They have four corners."

Toddlers may have fun choosing their snack based on the shape.

"Do you want the square piece of toast with a square piece of cheese, or do you want the circle crackers and circle banana slices?"

Play Time

While playing, point to and name shapes.



Provide objects of various shapes, such as blocks, balls, and containers.

While playing, identify shapes and their unique attributes.

"Let's roll the ball. It is round."

"Are you stacking the triangle on top of the square? The triangle is pointy and looks like a roof."

As the child plays, ask them to point out the different shapes as you name them.

Outside Time

Go on a shape scavenger hunt.



Point to and name shapes while on a walk or on the playground.

"I notice a circle. Do you notice it? What other shapes can we find?"

"There is a triangle. It is part of the sign."

Count the sides and corners of the shapes you find.

"The triangle has three corners. Let's count: one, two, three."

Reading Time

Read shape books like *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert, to identify shapes.



While reading together, point out the shapes that are in the illustrations.

"Let's find the squares on the page. This square is the lion's face."

Engage in shape activities after reading. For example, after reading *Color Zoo*, toddlers may have fun building an [animal's face](#) (find [activity in Spanish here](#)) with cut-out shapes.