

Building Blocks Tips Week 10 -Geometry

Whole Group- (WG) I Spy, Shape Set, Guess My Rule

- I SPY: Initially teachers name the shape they want children to find, then move into playing by naming the properties of the shape you'd like students to find (shape with 3 straight sides)
- Big Book Building Shapes: No need to read the entire book, focus on the pages that have less familiar shapes.

Small Group Activities (SG) Guess My Rule & Shape Step. *Prepare shapes in advance* and know which "rule" you want children to notice. If using triangles, use different shaped triangles. For more circles, or different size squares use plastic attribute blocks/pattern blocks from kit. This game develops critical thinking skills and logical reasoning skills.

Introduce to Children: "This is a quiet game. We are going to sort shapes into two piles using a rule (that's something that makes the shapes the same). I'll start and you'll help me by pointing to the pile where the shapes should go. Ready?"

If your rule is "squares vs. circles" put out one square and one circle, then another square and circle, starting two separate piles. Then hold up a square for children to decide where it goes. Remind them to point just with fingers. After you place 3-4 shapes in the piles. Ask "Why do you think this shape goes in that pile?.....what makes them the same? What do you think my rule is? (extending thinking beyond naming of shape)



A fun way to play this game is to have a large amount of each kind of shape you are using (use shapes from different sets). After children have guessed the rule, let them sort all the shapes. Each child picks a shape to sort. They really enjoy this "hands on" way of sorting.

- *Shape Step:* Focus on triangles, rectangles have multiples of these shapes for children to step on. Use "foolers" (triangle not connected, or pizza shape).
- You can do Shape step outside using chalk. ****Helpful point: Set up for Shape Step is key!! Make sure you have enough shapes and enough variety. Get your list of instructions ready so children are not waiting.**
- **ConnectEd** Mystery Pictures 2 & Memory Geometry

