

Explore Family Math Activities

The following two activities have been adapted from the Building Blocks curriculum, usually implemented in pre-K Explore classrooms. The activities have been adapted for three and four-year-olds and can easily be done at home with families and other caregivers, with few materials needed. They are designed to be playful and fun, while also supporting children's development in an at-home setting.

Activity 1: I Spy Shapes

Materials Needed: None.

How to play:

- Invite your child to play a shape version of the classic game, "I spy!"
- Take turns giving clues of shapes you see in your home. For example, "I spy something that is a rectangle." Then, help your child to determine what object in your home is the rectangle you were "spying."
- As children are ready, instead of naming type of shapes, give clues about the shape. For example, "I spy something that has four sides."

Why this game?

- Shapes are all around us! Playfully talking about shapes and exploring shapes in the environment provides children with a strong foundation in geometry.

Activity 2: As Long As My Arm

Materials Needed: String.

How to play:

- Help your child to cut a piece of string that is the same length as their arm.
- Show your child how to measure by lining up one end of the ribbon to the edge of an item your child wants to measure.
- Hunt around the house for items that are shorter, longer, or the same length as your child's "arm"/string.
- Your child may also want to make a graph: fold a paper into three sections and title each section "longer," "shorter," "same length." Invite your child to draw the items they found in the corresponding section.

Why this game?

- Children begin to learn about measurement by directly comparing two objects and determining which is longer/shorter. Through this exploration, children will eventually see that in order to compare lengths, lining up objects carefully at one end improves accuracy.

- Young children are naturally interested in topics that relate to them, so measuring something the same length as their arm is motivating.

All Explore Family Math Activities are adapted from Building Blocks, © Clements & Sarama, 2013, McGraw-Hill Education.