

Shape, Space and Measures!

Shapes, space and measures sound like scary concepts to teach 3 and 4 year olds. However, you're most likely already doing it!

Take food for example, it's a simple and easy way to introduce mathematical concepts and terms to your child. From commenting on the shape of their sandwich, to them helping you measure ingredients to make shaped biscuits, to even playing 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'

Children can learn about these concepts in an easy, organic and fun way. In this document we will look at some easy ideas to try at home.

Top Tip!

The story 'Goldilocks and the 3 bears' is great to introduce children to mathematical language related to size!

Measuring mad!

Children can learn about measurements by ordering toys, household objects, sticks and leaves they find in the garden from shortest/smallest to the longest/largest.

If you have a measuring tape, why not investigate who is the tallest in your family? You can make a height chart in your child's room and mark off your findings.

Measurement can be in every day interactions. For example, if a child makes a Lego tower and exclaims "I made a tower!". You can repeat and extend their statement with "Well done! That's a very tall tower, can we make it taller?"

Shapes are all around us!

Shapes surround our environment; we just have to help our children recognise this! Why not try a shape hunt around the house and ask them to spot all the squares, circles and triangles? If they master 2D shapes, you can try 3D shapes!

How about some shape printing? You just need some sponges cut into different shapes and pegs to dip them into paint!

Draw some shapes for children and let them cut them and use them to make a shape collage, a square for a house and a triangle for a roof perhaps?



Pattern Practice!

Building blocks and Legos are in nearly every home. Have a go and make a pattern with these and see if your child can copy and continue them.

Patterns can be found in nature too! Animal skins are another great way to explore patterns and discuss the world around them.

You can also make a patterned necklace using beads or straws. How about some delicious patterned fruit kebabs?

