



# Nature Exploration: Discovering Geometric Shapes

## Activity sheet

- **Target group:** 10+ years
- **Duration:** about 1 hour
- **Material needed:**
  - Notebooks or worksheets for recording observations
  - Pencils or pens
  - Cameras or smartphones (optional) for taking pictures
  - Comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing
- **Key competence:** Numeracy

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Nature Exploration Activity not only helps children learn about geometric shapes but also fosters a deeper connection with their environment. By observing and identifying shapes in nature and architecture, children develop better observational skills and a practical understanding of geometry. This activity combines learning with physical exercise and exploration, making it an engaging and educational experience. The objective of the Nature Exploration Activity is to enhance children's observational skills by identifying geometric shapes in their



natural and built environments, promote an understanding of geometry through real-world examples, and encourage physical activity while fostering a connection with nature.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Introduction (10 minutes):**

- Gather the children and explain the purpose of the activity: to find and identify geometric shapes in the environment around them.
- Discuss the different geometric shapes they might find, such as circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, and ovals.
- Show examples of where these shapes might be found in nature (e.g., circles in tree trunks) and in man-made structures (e.g., squares in bricks).

### **Setting Off (5 minutes):**

- Take the children on a walk around a local park, garden, or neighborhood.
- Encourage them to keep their eyes open for various geometric shapes as they walk.

### **Exploration and Observation (30-40 minutes):**

- As the children walk, ask them to look for and identify geometric shapes in their surroundings.
- When a child spots a shape, they should point it out and describe it to the group.

- Optionally, let children take pictures of the shapes they find for later discussion.
- In their notebooks or worksheets, have children draw or write down the shapes they find and where they found them.

### Examples to Look For:

- **Circles:** Tree trunks, flowers, sun, fruit (e.g., apples, oranges), pebbles.
- **Triangles:** Leaves (some have triangular shapes), roof structures, mountains or hills in the distance.
- **Squares/Rectangles:** Bricks on houses or walls, windows, tiles on the ground.
- **Ovals:** Rocks, some types of leaves, flower petals, eggs in nests.

### Group Discussion (15 minutes):

- After the walk, gather the children together to discuss what they found.
- Ask them to share their favorite shape discovery and explain where they found it.
- Discuss any surprising shapes or patterns they observed.

### Reflection (10 minutes):

- Encourage children to think about how geometric shapes are a part of both nature and human-made structures.
- Ask questions like:
  - Which shapes were the easiest to find? Why?
  - Were there any shapes that were difficult to find?

- How do geometric shapes help us understand and describe the world around us?

## POTENTIALS FOR AAC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Nature Exploration Activity has significant potential for supporting speech development in children. This activity helps expand children's vocabulary by introducing and using new words related to geometry and nature, such as "circle," "triangle," "square," "tree trunk," "brick," and "leaf." As they identify and describe geometric shapes during the walk, they practice using descriptive language, enhancing their ability to articulate thoughts and observations clearly.

The activity also develops expressive language skills as children discuss their findings with peers and adults, learning to organise and convey their thoughts coherently. It promotes conversational skills through dialogue and interaction, fostering turn-taking, listening, and responding—key components of effective social communication. Encouraging children to ask questions about the shapes they find and think critically about their environment stimulates inquisitiveness and engagement, helping them learn to formulate and ask relevant questions.

Social interaction is another vital aspect, as working in groups or pairs provides opportunities for collaborative communication, sharing findings, and discussing different perspectives, enhancing social language skills.

In summary, the Nature Exploration Activity provides a rich and dynamic environment for enhancing speech development. Children not only learn new

words and concepts but also practice essential communication skills in an engaging and meaningful context.



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