



Math News

Building
Blocks

Dear Family,

In Week 23, math activities focused on building with shapes. Children manipulated shapes to compose puzzles, pictures, and patterns. Visualization is a key skill that children are developing as they create new shapes and search for “hidden” shapes in pictures and real-world structures. With your child, use the Shapes, Shapes, Shapes reference sheet to talk about which shapes can be combined to form other shapes, such as two trapezoids form a hexagon and two squares combine to form a rectangle.

Help-at-Home Math Tips

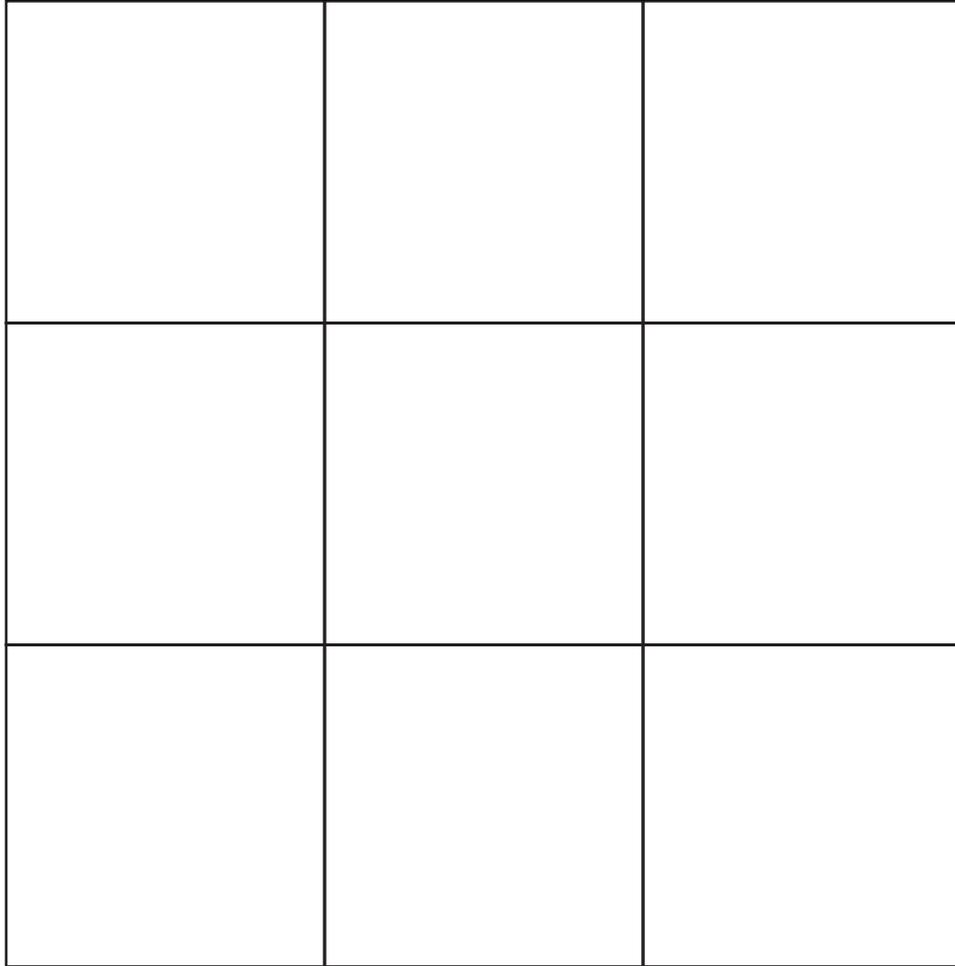
- Look around your community for shapes that combine to form a larger shape, figure, or structure. You might see rectangles in a building or triangles in the supports of a bridge.
Benefit: This activity provides practice with identifying and analyzing shapes.
- Play a game in which you challenge your child to “see” and manipulate shapes in his or her mind. For example, say, “Close your eyes, and picture a square. Now, cut across the square from a top corner to the opposite bottom corner. What do you see?” (a triangle)
Benefit: This develops shape visualization and recognition skills.

What’s Ahead?

In Week 24, children will practice and build their counting skills as they begin simple addition.

Here's What I Know

Ask your child to identify how many different-sized squares are in the following diagram (three).



There are ____ different square sizes in the picture.

What to Look For

- Did your child correctly identify three different sizes of squares? (The whole diagram is a square; four cells combined are a square; and each cell is a square.)
- Can your child tell you what makes a square a square? (A square has four sides that are the same length and four right angles.)