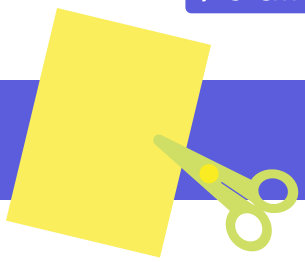
Extended Learning for Educators

SHAPES IN SPACE



Purpose

To introduce and reinforce the spatial relationships children will encounter while playing in the RelationShapes™ app

Learning Goals

- Create and analyze shape combinations using a variety of spatial relationships: apart, tangent, overlapping, inside, concentric
- Strengthen visual-spatial processing skills, including perceiving objects in the correct location, size, and orientation

What You Need

- Construction paper in a variety of colors
- Shape cutters for circles, squares, and triangles (e.g., cookie cutters, cups, saucers, small box lids, plastic shapes, anything you can find!)
- Play dough or modeling clay

Step 1 Cut out a variety of shapes with children. Use construction paper, play dough, modeling clay, shape stamps, or sheet protectors to draw and cut out shapes. Aim for many sizes, colors, and proportions.

Step 2 Look at children's shape pictures together in the RelationShapes gallery. Encourage children to tell you about their Picture It creations.

Step 3 Have children recreate the spatial relationships in their pictures by using the physical cutout shapes. Help them copy if needed.

Step 4 Point out the various spatial relationships you observe. For example, *"Look! These shapes are apart. They never touch!" "Now these shapes are touching." "These shapes overlap with one another." "These shapes are inside one another."*

Step 5 Compare children's Picture It creations with their new designs. Identify the on-screen shapes. Talk about how they look the same or different from the physical shapes.

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW!

- Challenge children to see who can create designs with the cutout shapes the fastest! Take turns calling out the number of shapes and the spatial relationship (e.g., *"Three shapes – two touching and one inside!"* or *"Two shapes overlapping!"*)
- Have children play with the life-size shapes and encourage them to make a variety of spatial relationships.
- Call out a specific relationship (e.g., *"Overlapping!"*) and see if children can recreate it with the life-size shapes.