

Run sheet, Shapes Around Us

Goal. Every girl finds a shape in the room, says its name and draws it.

Before you start

- Draw the four shapes big where all can see: circle, square, rectangle, triangle.
- Gather a handful of found objects per pair: large caps, pebbles, leaves, folded paper, twigs.
- **You choose the objects, not the girls. Nothing that fits inside a ring of your thumb and first finger, nothing sharp.**
- At each place: Sheet A, Sheet B, a pencil or one between two. Sheet C only for 60.

The clock, 30 minutes

- 0 to 4 min: name the four shapes
- 4 to 10 min: shape walk, touch it
- 10 to 17 min: two piles, then count corners
- 17 to 26 min: draw what you found
- 26 to 30 min: point, name, close

Run 30. This is the right length for four-year-olds and five-year-olds, not a cut-down one. In 45: 0 to 6, 6 to 14, 14 to 26, 26 to 38, 38 to 45. In 60: 0 to 6, 6 to 16, 16 to 30, 30 to 48, 48 to 60, where the extra time builds shapes from twigs on Sheet C.

What you do

1. Sit everyone in a circle. Point at each drawn shape, say its name, all say it back.
2. Make shapes with hands: a circle with two arms, a triangle with two hands, a square with four fingers.
3. Say: "Walk to something round. Put your hand on it." Go with the ones who wait.
4. Repeat for a door, then for something with three corners.
5. Give each pair a handful of objects. Say: "Round things here. Things with corners here."
6. Walk the room. Ask one girl at a time: "How many corners?" Count them with her finger, touching each corner once.
7. Hand out Sheet A. Each girl draws the round thing she touched, then the thing with corners.
8. Draw beside a girl who is waiting, and let her fix your drawing.
9. Hand out Sheet B. Girls draw a shape big, and write or trace its name if they want to.
10. Go round the circle. Each girl points at one thing and names its shape. Repeating is allowed.

Watch for

1. A girl points at something nobody named and says its shape without being asked.
2. A girl counts corners by touching each one once, instead of guessing a number.
3. A girl still calls a square a square when you turn it on its point.

What goes wrong most. You ask what shape the door is and she says "a door". Run her finger along one edge, count the corners together, then ask again.

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