Maths is All Around Us

Why is shape important?

* It helps with letter and number recognition - if you can tell the difference between shapes, you can notice the differences in the letters of the alphabet, which are essentially made up of lines and shapes.

* It helps children develop sorting and classifying, or categorising, skills (putting objects into categories based on their similarities or differences). For example shape sorting activities help young children learn that all triangles have 3 sides and 3 corners, and eventually that all triangles do not necessarily look the same.

* It help with vocabulary development - when children learn the names of shapes and are exposed to different shapes and their characteristics, they are essentially learning new words.

* It introduces young children to the world of maths - learning about shapes can help children develop important skills such as counting and basic maths.

* It helps children learn about spatial relation - the ability to understand how objects are positioned in relation to one another

If you have any questions about how to support your child learn about shape then please speak to Rachel.

How can I support my child learn about shape?

Sing songs about shapes.

Shapes are all around us - you could go on a shape hunt, what shapes can you find at home? Walking to nursery what shapes can you see?

Talk about shapes - how do you know that is a circle? How is it the same as another circle? How is it different to a triangle? How many sides and corners does a shape have?

Matching shapes - draw round objects and see if your child can match the shapes to the objects.

Make pictures with shapes - What happens when you combine 2 shapes? A square and a triangle can make a house. What shapes make a tree?

Building with 3D shapes. Blocks are great, but you could also build with tins and cereal boxes. Are some shapes easier to build with than others?

Examples of 2D shapes - circle, triangle, square, rectangle, hexagon, octagon, pentagon, oval, star, diamond.

Examples of 3D shapes - cube, cuboid, sphere, pyramid, cone.