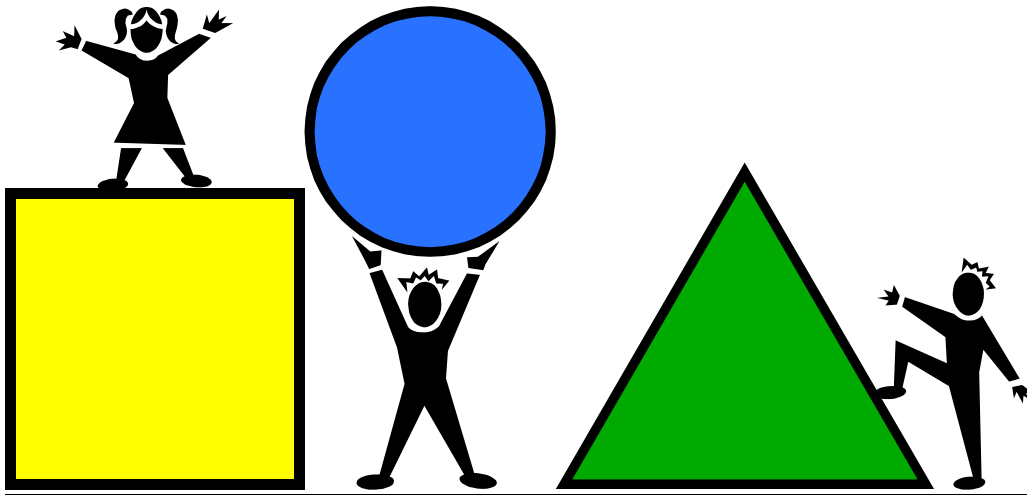


Pre-Visit Activities

Pre-Kindergarten



Activities

These activities are intended for use before your visit to the Virginia Air and Space Center. It is beneficial for the students to have some prior knowledge about the content area covered in the program. All of the activities can be tailored to your specific classroom needs, and the procedures listed are suggestions for teaching.

Activity 1: Shape Hide and Seek

Have students sit in a circle and play Shape Hide and Seek. Ahead of time, cut large shapes (two of each-circle, square, rectangle, oval, and triangle) out of construction paper and hide one of each of the shapes around in the classroom. Then hold up each shape, one at a time, and have the students identify each shape by name and/or color. Then tell the students that each of the shapes has been hidden in the classroom and they need to find all five of them. You may or may not set a time limit. After the students find all five of the shapes, gather the class together in a circle again and review the shapes that have been found. You could also hide the shapes on the playground and do the activity outside.

Activity 2: Shaped Food

Incorporate shapes into your snack time! Find foods that have the shapes your class is learning about. You can make sugar cookie or biscuit dough and use cookie cutters that are shaped like the shapes the students are learning about. Other ideas are cut up cucumbers and round cereal would work well for circles. Triangle shaped crackers or cheese slices cut on the diagonal would work well for triangles. Saltines or other square shaped crackers, square shaped cereal, cheese slices, or slices of sandwich style bread would work well for squares. Remember to always check first for food allergies that your students may have before serving any food to your students.

Activity 3: Shape Matching

Set up a center in your classroom with various sizes and colors of shapes (circle, square, rectangle, oval, and triangle). The shapes can be made out of construction paper or craft foam. If you are using construction paper, you may want to laminate the shapes or cover them with contact paper to help them last longer. Let the students place all of the triangles together, all of the circles together, etc. Let children see that even when the shapes are different sizes, they are still triangles, circles, etc.

Resources

Books

Spot Looks at Shapes Eric Hill 2003.

So Many Circles, So Many Squares Tana Hoban 1998.

Shapes Shapes Shapes Tana Hoban 1996.

The Shape of Things Dayle Ann Dodds, Illustrator Julie Lancome 1996.

When a Line Bends Rhonda Gowler Green, Illustrator James Kaczman 2001.

The Greedy Triangle Marilyn Burns, Illustrator Gordon Silveria 1995.

Places

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**Many posters, lithographs and activities are available through the ERC. Please come in, call or e-mail your requests.

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