

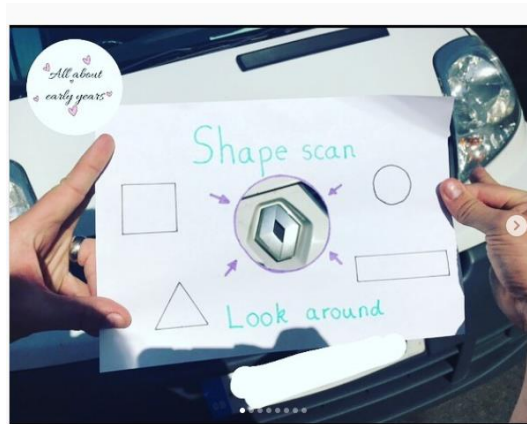
Shape Recognition

Children should be familiar with the key four shapes; square, rectangle, triangle and circle.

During every day play remind them of these shapes. Talk about their properties for example a square has 4 sides and 4 corners. A triangle has 3 sides and 3 corners. A rectangle can be vertical or horizontal, it has 2 long sides and 2 short sides and it also has 4 corners but is not a square. A circle has one continuous side and no corners.

You could draw the shapes or identify items around the home which have the shapes within them - a window is rectangle shaped, the wheels on a toy car are circles etc.

Once your child can identify these 4 shapes they should be able to find them in the outside environment. You can do this from the safety of your garden or during a walk. You can make this simple shape identifier and take it with you on your walk.



Encourage your child to use it to spot shapes on cars, houses and buildings, road signs, floor markings. Once your child starts they won't stop! If you are lucky enough to find more shapes such as hexagons, octagons extend your child's knowledge - this is valuable.

A further way of creating shapes and consolidating learning is seen below -



You could cut shapes out of cereal packets and your child could use them as a template to trace around and make pictures out of. Or use the templates to take around the home looking for items that are that shape. The ideas are endless!