



Dear Parents:

Next week's focus is Geometry for Math Awareness Month. Which is harder: Geometry or Algebra? The answer to this question depends on each individual learner. The left side of the brain is more analytical, methodical and logical whereas the right side of the brain is more emotional, creative and artistic. Often when we see students struggle in Algebraic Thinking and order of operations but are really strong in the area of Geometry, it is because they are more right brained and can see patterns, shapes and designs. Whereas if your child is more logical/analytically minded, they will perform better in Algebraic concepts.

The word Geometry is Greek, "geo" representing earth and "metron" representing measurement. In the 11th century Leonardo Fibonacci developed a numeric sequence based on formations in nature. Take a look at all the ways this sequence works in our natural world. <https://stemettes.org/zine/articles/fibonacci-in-nature/> It definitely is used in predicting weather patterns for storms particularly tornados and hurricanes. It is this natural wonder that had people developing an understanding of the mathematical concepts we teach today.

This week April 15 -19, help your child see geometry in the world. Use vocabulary like 2-dimensional shapes (squares, rectangles, triangles, circles) and 3-D shapes (cubes, spheres, cylinders, and cones). You won't need to go too far for these shapes just look in their toy box, or everyday objects - ice cubes, ice cream cones, balls, placemats, name tags. Have your child draw shapes or build shapes from clay or sticks. Begin identifying some vocabulary words. Instead of using the term corner, start referring to them as the vertex or vertices. How many sides or edges does the shape have? The terms, trapezoids -quadrilaterals, hexa - 6, penta- 5, octa - 8, polygons and prisms will present themselves with older students. Parallel and perpendicular lines are all around us, just look at a railroad track for parallel or a street intersection for perpendicular. Shapes can be divided and begins the concept of fractions. Order a pizza for the family and discuss how many pieces the pizza has and how much each person will eat. You don't need to love math, or know all the formulas, just engage in everyday conversations as geometry presents itself. Here are even more [ideas](#), books to read, videos, art opportunities and games to play surrounding geometry concepts. On Friday have your child color one of the pictures in the link above or from a coloring book and talk with them about patterns and shapes they are coloring.

This is a week for kids to dress up with shapes or patterns on their clothing. Talk about their clothing selections. Do they have a shirt, skirt, shorts, that has a pattern of stripes, or repetition of characters or color? Do they have polygon shapes with no curved edges? Team shirts often have numbers.

Don't forget to save and turn in your bread tags.

Math Counts - Carmen Tawney - LAS Elementary Math Coordinator