



Dear Parents:

Next week's focus is Geometry for Math Awareness Month. Parents, you may begin to worry that topics that you once thought were only taught in high school math classes like Algebra and Geometry are now "popping up" in elementary school. How is it possible for us to keep up with our child's learning in the elementary schools? It is not as difficult as it seems.

Math is everywhere. Take a close look around and you will see geometry comes from our natural environment. The word Geometry is Greek, "geo" representing earth and "metron" representing measurement. Bees create hexagons in their honeycombs, the arc of a rainbow, the starfish - a natural polygon, the stripe patterns on snakes - don't get too close to the diamondback rattlers, but it too displays geometric patterns naturally. It is this natural wonder that had people developing an understanding of the mathematical concepts we teach today.

This week April 17 -21, 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