

ROSEMARY REUILLE IRONS AND CARMEL DIEZMANN

space and shape

MATHEMATICS FOR YOUNG MINDS

Sample Activities

Myself in Space

Children follow instructions to act out spatial relationships.

Blackline Masters 1 and 2 (pages 65–66)

Sheets of light card



Preparation

- Copy Blackline Masters 1 and 2 onto light card and cut out to make a set of 16 cards.
- For the extension activity, make one set of cards for each group.



Activity

Note: If the children have not yet learned “left” and “right”, remove this card from the set before doing the activity.

Have the children stand straight with their arms at their sides. Ask them to spread out so they cannot touch anyone. Read out the cards one at a time and give the children time to act out each instruction.



Extension

Have the children move into groups. Place a set of 16 cards in a stack facedown in front of each group. Have one child pick up four cards and read them aloud one at a time while the other children act out the instructions. Give each child a turn to be the leader and read out four instructions.



Walk on the Shape

Children walk the outlines of shapes on the ground.

Blackline Masters 3 and 4 (pages 67–68)

Sheets of light card

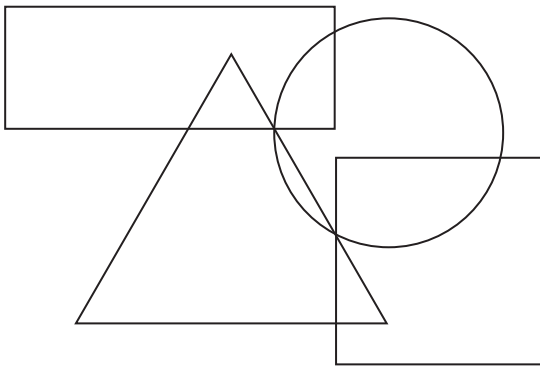
Chalk or masking tape

Plain paper and crayons for each child



Preparation

- Copy Blackline Master 3 onto light card and make three sets of eight cards for each group.
- Make a shape arrangement (as shown left) on the ground with chalk, or on carpet with masking tape. Ensure it is big enough to walk on the shape outlines. Make one for each group.
- For the extension activity, copy Blackline Master 4 for each child.



Activity

Shuffle the three sets of cards together and place them in a stack facedown in front of the group. Children take turns to pick a card, name the shape, and walk the outline of that shape. They continue until every card has been used.

Repeat the activity, encouraging the children to walk sideways, forward, or backward on the shape outlines.

Alternatively, have children pick two cards, name the two shapes, and walk on one shape outline. Then, when they reach an intersection, they move to the outline of their second shape and complete the walk.



Extension



Distribute plain paper and crayons to each group. Have the children draw a new shape arrangement. Help them make their shape arrangement on the ground and repeat the activity above.

Distribute a copy of Blackline Master 4 to each child. Have the children trace the shapes using a different color for each shape.