

Focus plan for Problem solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Activity -Tangrams -

Learning intention

Talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns.

Use language such as 'circle' or 'bigger' to describe the shape of solids and flat shapes

Resources

(Tangrams are a Chinese puzzle based on 7 geometric shapes)

Cut out enough tangrams for one per child (there should be templates available on the internet) out of coloured card

White paper

glue

How the activity will be carried out

Show the children the tangram puzzle shapes and explain that this is a very old puzzle from China. What shapes can the children see? Talk about the shapes together. Explain that the point of the puzzle is to make pictures using all of the 7 shapes at once. Invite the children to make a picture with their tangram shapes, laying them over the white paper. Give them time to explore the different images they can make, and to make more than one. When they have found one they really like, they can stick it onto the paper.

Questions to ask/Language to use

Tangram, puzzle, shapes, triangle, square, rectangle, bigger, smaller, how many sides?

Differentiation (Birth to Three)

Put plastic shapes in the water tray. Do puzzles together. Look for shapes around the nursery.

Extension

Give children a set of shapes that do not form a tangram together, such as a circle, diamond, triangle, hexagon etc. Encourage them to explore the pictures they can make with these shapes when they put them together.

Evaluation