SHAPE HUNT

Playdough to Plato
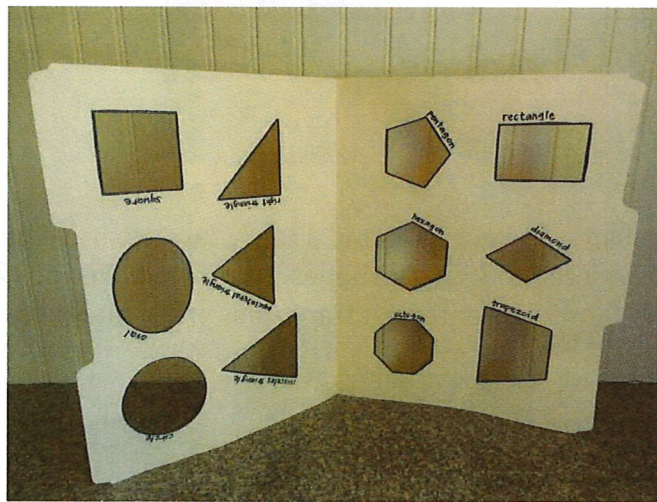
This **2D shape hunt** is a simple way to turn an ordinary regular neighborhood walk into a super fun math lesson! Learn about 2d shapes including circles, hexagons, rectangles and squares as you sneak in a little exercise.

Getting Ready

To prep, I grabbed a manila folder {card stock would work well too}, scissors, a box cutter and a pen.
I printed out the shape hunt chart and traced the shapes on the manila folder. Then I cut them out using the box cutter and traced around the outside border with a black Sharpie to make the shapes stand out.

You can do as many or as few shapes as you want. I ended up going with twelve — circle, oval, square, isosceles triangle, equilateral triangle, right triangle, rectangle, rhombus {some people call it diamond}, trapezoid, pentagon, hexagon, and octagon.

Going on A 2D Shape Hunt

The next time my son and I went for a walk, I whipped out our shape finder.
"What is that?" he asked me.
"It's a shape finder," I told him. "We can use it to identify all the different shapes around us! First, let's name all of these shapes."
He knew some of the shapes by name already. Others he was familiar with. And there were shapes he hadn't known about before, so this was a good exercise in shape learning for him.

As we walked along, some shapes were easier to find than others — there are a surprising number of circles, rectangles, and triangles all around your typical neighborhood!

But a large part of the fun was discovering those harder to find shapes. We were very excited when we realized the lights on our garage were hexagons.

This is a great way to introduce shapes to your child and a really fun activity to boot! I've kept our Shape Finder in my bag because he has wanted to look for shapes everywhere we go. I even find myself looking for shapes while we drive, especially those harder to find trapezoids and pentagons.

It's also been very useful on those rainy days when we're stuck in the house — there are so many shapes everywhere!

MAY 13, 2014 by JEN RICE PLAYDOUGH TO PLATO, ACTIVITY FOR AGES 4 TO 6