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Overcoming barriers in mathematics – helping children move from level 1 to level 2

Some ideas for recognising shapes and some of their properties

- I spy... something green with wheels... that has a curved face... that has two holes in it... that has lots of points.
- I've hidden an object/shape/wooden numeral in this feely bag. Pass it round and tell me what you think it is. How do you know?
- Put your hands down into this big box. Can you find... something soft?... an object with corners?... something round?... something spiky?
- Tell me where in the classroom you can see a circle... a square... a triangle. What about a cube? Can you see a cone anywhere?
- Imagine a big triangle painted on the floor. How many corners does it have? How many sides?
- Imagine holding a tin of beans, and turning it round and round in your hands. How many circles can you see?
- Shut your eyes. Listen while I describe a shape to you... Now open your eyes. Can you pick up the shape I was describing? Now can you describe a shape for someone else to guess?
- Look at this collection of objects or shapes. Shut your eyes while I pick one up and hide it. Open your eyes. Tell me which object or shape I have hidden.
- Make a simple pattern by printing five or six shapes on one half of a sheet of paper. Can you copy your pattern on the other half?
- Look at this pattern I have made. One piece is missing. Can you say which piece it is?