



SHAPE HUNT & SQUIRT

Materials you need:

- Empty and clean juice, water or dishwashing liquid plastic bottles with lid – can also use tomato paste squeeze bottles (ones with a hole in the lid) or sauce squeeze bottles.
- Edicol colour dye or food colouring with water.
- Medium sized shapes cut from coloured paper and laminated or covered in contact sticky paper.
- Pegs

Setup for play:

- Before the children arrive walk around the outdoor space and peg your coloured shapes to different areas and obstacles in the yard.
- Fill the squirt bottles with coloured water and you are ready to go – this activity is easy!
- Encourage the children to run around the yard and squirt the shapes. You can ask them to find specific shapes, let them find their own and call out the shape to you as they squirt or just call out colours to find.
- Younger children will love just finding and attempting to squirt the shapes – you could name them as they squirt so they become more familiar with that shape and colour.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children find and squirt the shapes they are learning to:

- Cross their midline and move in anti-clockwise directions
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Persist even when they find a task difficult
- Work together in a group with others
- Listen to and follow directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Recognise and name basic shapes and colours
- Use large muscles to coordinate movements, balance and aim.

Extending the play:

- Challenge the children to peg their own shapes around the yard for others to find.
- Use coloured cups instead and stack them into a pyramid on a table. Use the squirt bottles to try and knock down certain colours before the tower falls.
- Tape a large white sheet (edicol dye washes out or use one from the op shop) to a wall or fence and create a colourful mural using the squirt bottles.

