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# Teaching Resources | Teacher Training



The new way to do  
outdoor learning

Shape | EYFS

BEE GREEN AND ONLY PRINT IF YOU HIVE TO :)

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## What does this pack include?

- Summary of objectives covered, preparation and safety
- Lessons for 'Shape' in all weather types
- A home learning sheet to help engage parents
- A Muddy certificate

## Preparation and safety

Each season, nature will bring you the resources that you need. However, if you do not have a natural setting or lack certain natural items, try to collect these in advance of your sessions. Make a habit of going out for a walk at weekends – you'll improve your own physical and mental health, which is good for you, and you'll collect your missing items. You can also encourage parents to get collecting through your newsletters! Make your world one big healthy, Muddy community. You will get an idea of the types of resources that you need each season. The only resource that you may need to buy is air-drying clay.

Weather wise, we will provide you with ideas for all types of weather. The only time that we advise you NOT to go outside is on extremely windy days and during thunderstorms. Otherwise, there's no excuses – get yourself out there!

Always risk assess with the children present. As you enter the natural environment, spend 30 seconds talking about the dangers that the weather conditions may present, such as slippery surfaces and hot sun. If possible, offer the children a solution to any issues, such as seeking out a safe, shady area if the sun is too hot.

## Aims and Objectives

**ELG** - Shape, space and measures:

Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems.

**I can tell you the names of some 2D shapes.**

**I can tell you the names of all of the 2D shapes.**

**I can describe to you the properties of 2D shapes.**

### Differentiation

EM Extend me - All 2D shapes and properties

LMG Let me grow - All 2D shapes

HMB Help me blossom- Basic 2D shapes

## Other curriculum links

**Understanding** - Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

**Speaking** - Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs.

**New to our Muddy World?**

**Please read the handbook before you start any of our lessons!**

**"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GREAT TO START, BUT YOU HAVE TO START TO BE GREAT." -ZIG ZIGLAR**



# Windy Days



## Introduction Activity

Create a natural hopscotch, using rocks, and use chalk to write in the numbers. Let the children have fun skipping from square to square. Could they help the educator to make the layout? What shapes are you using? How many sides? How many corners?

## Main Activity

The children can use rocks to make a variety of different shapes, all of different sizes. Once the children have used the rocks to form the outlines of shapes, they can fill them in with natural materials. Perhaps they could put brown and black objects (twigs and stones) into squares and green objects (weeds) into triangles, for example? We need to make sure that the sides are straight though, so challenge the children to draw the straightest line they can across the rocks.

## Reflection Task

The wind might be whipping up a storm, but that doesn't stop us! Give each child, pair or team a pile of stones. Once you call out the name of a shape, they have to try and make that shape as quickly as they can. Once they have made it, they have to shout out a silly word or do a funky dance. Gather everyone around the picture to see if the shape is correct. Repeat until you have called out the names of all of the shapes.

## Links to the Muddy M's

**Move** - Model to the children how to squat and use this action when picking up and moving the rocks for a great leg work out!  
**Muddy Nature** - Talk about what rocks are and where they come from.  
**Mental strength** - The children will be working in groups and teams promote positive feedback, encouragement and reflection.

## Top Muddy Tips

Rocks need to be used safely and we encourage all of our muddy teachers to only use rocks with children if they have done lots of risk assessments and risk training. See more on our website for this. Start with small rocks and move to larger pebbles. Our advice would be to keep to pebbles/rocks no bigger than the child's hand. We have a lovely activity called 'Rock Babies' on our website to best teach rock safety.



Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

## Introduction Activity

Once our sun cream is on and our hats are on our heads, let us head outside. Collect objects and hold them up in the sunlight. Can we see the shadows the objects are making? Can we see any shapes in the shadows? Can we use a certain object to make a specific shape? Can we work together to overlap our shadows? Can we join up our shape shadows to make a picture on the ground? If you lay a white sheet on the ground, then the shadows become even clearer.

## Main Activity

Using stones, pebbles, shells or sticks, ask the children to create a picture. Try a dinosaur or even a ship. Model to them how to create the outline of a shape to form part of the picture. What about a triangle for the dinosaur's head. Once the children have made their shape outlines and the picture is complete, use natural materials to fill up each shape. Weeds, dry grass, leaves and moss are all great wild materials which add texture to natural art. Discuss which shapes the children are using for which part of the picture.

## Reflection Task

Take some photos of the children's natural pictures. Use this opportunity to allow children to talk about which shapes they used. Then ask them to give each object sounds, or words they might say. Perhaps gather the children around for a story about a greedy dinosaur or pirates on a ship.

Don't wait for  
opportunity. Create it.



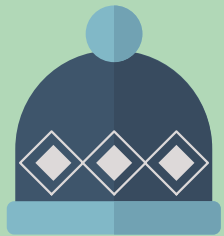
## Links to the Muddy M's

Muddy Movers - Enjoy listening to all the sounds on a sunny day. Ask the children to close their eyes, stretch into the sky and take some deep belly breaths. What did they hear?  
Mental Strength- Use our imaginations to bring objects to life. Create characters and storylines.  
Mother Nature - How would today look different if the sun was not around? How would the colours and light change?



Sunny  
Days

# Cold Days



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## Intro

Brrrrr! It is freezing! Let us get warmed up. Divide the children up into groups. Call out a shape and challenge the teams to make themselves into the outline of this shape. There are many options in this game. You could: divide the class in two for extra competition; you could ask for no talking to really test their teamwork: or you could ask them to do the task standing up or lying on the ground. See which team can make the shape the quickest.

## Main

When we make shapes as a class, we want them to be equal, or match, right? Number up the children to make shapes. For example, 3 children can make up one side of a square. Talk to the children about each side being equal. Use numbers to count around the outline of the shape. As you ask the class to work together to make the outline of other shapes, using their bodies, step in and ask questions, coaching the children to think about how many people they will need to make equal sides. This will allow them to correct any misunderstandings and learn about the sides and corners of each of the shapes.

## Plenary

The educator draws a variety of shapes, one on each piece of paper. Gather the children together and give each child a number, 1-4. Each number equates to a picture of a shape. When you hold up the picture of the square, all the children who were given the number 1 (or square) have to stand up and jump. Use different tasks for each different shape. For example: jump, clap, shout, boogie, sing or say a random word. Try to catch them out by holding up more than one picture at the same time.

## Links to the Muddy M's

Muddy Movers – Having lots of fun with movement.  
Mental Strength- Working together to complete a task. Use exercise to help keep you warm.  
Mother Nature – What happens to the plants and trees on cold days? What happens to our breath and why?

The key to success is to  
focus on goals, not  
obstacles.



## Intro

Thank you, rain. It's puddle time! Ask the children to find a puddle and watch the rain drops plopping into it. Can they count the drops? What noises are they making? What shape does the rain drop make when it splashes into the puddle? Does the shape change when the rain gets lighter or harder?

Ask parents to donate their plastic containers. Hopefully, you will receive lots of different shapes and sizes. Discuss the shapes of each container with the children and pop them all out to collect the rain. Do not forget to put those bottle lids out too.

Dream it. Believe it.

Build it. 

## Main

Even though we might be feeling a bit soggy, we can still have lots of fun with shapes. Using rocks, pebbles or shells, create the outline of a variety of shapes. Break the children into teams and give each team a beanbag. When you call out the name of a shape, they have to try and throw their beanbag into the correct shape. If they damage the sides or corners of any of the shapes, they can run in and mend them.

## Plenary

All gather around the plastic containers. Talk about which shapes have collected the most or least rain. Ask the children why this may be. This allows the children to practise using their comparative and shape words in a context. Now, it is tea party time. Ask the children to sit in a circle and use the rain-filled containers to have a pretend tea party. A jam sandwich and a cup of tea for me, please. Cheers!

## Links to the Muddy M's

Muddy Movers - Lots of exploring rainy puddles.  
Mental Strength- Listening carefully to the sounds that rain drops make. Try to describe them.  
Mother Nature - Talk about the water-cycle, where rain comes from and why we need it so much.



Rainy Days

# Icy Days



## Intro

Ice and frost outside create the perfect canvas for drawing shapes. Water vapour, which accumulates on the inside of windows on frosty days, also make a wonderful drawing opportunity. Ask the children to draw as many shapes as they can into the frost or vapour. What happens to the sides or corners? Do they melt or drip away?

## Main

Good hair day! Tell the children that we are going to be making faces using shapes. For example, circles for eyes, and triangles for noses. Sticks, pebbles or shells are great natural materials to create outlines with, but string works just as well. Once they have made their faces, get creative by filling up the shapes with natural materials. Leaves work well as 'skin.' Why not use dried flowers, acorns, pine cones, leaves, mud or weeds? Feel free to bring this activity inside if it is too cold. Sand works really well for drawing in. The children could draw their face shapes onto paper and then fill them in with the natural materials.

## Plenary

After all of that making, we need to warm up our hands! Ask the children to draw a shape on the back of their partner's hand. Without looking, the partner has to guess which shape they are drawing. Could you make it extra tough by drawing two shapes for them to guess?

## Links to the Muddy M's

Muddy Movers - Exploring the environment to find natural materials.  
Mental Strength- Working together in pairs. Practising using positive language and fostering good relationships.  
Mother Nature - Why do some materials and liquids melt?

'Failure will never  
overtake me if my  
determination to succeed  
is strong enough'  
-Og Mandino



## Introduction Activity

White, crispy, sumptuously tempting, snow really is irresistible. Get them out there exploring. When the children have investigated the textures of the snow, and you have discussed snow safety, then ask them each to make a snowball. Tell the children that triangle, square, rectangle and circle want to play with snowballs too. Draw a large shape on the ground and ask the children to put their snowballs on each of the corners. This decorative approach will also get the children thinking about the corners and sides of 2D shapes.

## Main Activity

Children love to create shapes, so ask them to make a snow pizza party. Children can work on their own or with a partner to create a big pizza slice, which includes a triangle base; squares for the ham and circles for the sausages. They may also wish to add rectangles for extra cheese. The children could draw with sticks or mould the snow to create outlines. If not, footprints work just as well. The children can then work as a class to create and decorate a giant circular pizza, divided into triangles. They can work together to draw on or make snow shapes for each of the toppings. Remember to take a picture to capture all of the fun!

## Plenary Task

Show the children how to carefully create footprints to try and make straight lines. Everyone can then have a go at making super straight lines to create shapes. Challenges could include: making a pentagon, hexagon or an octagon, using their footprints alone.

### Top Muddy Puddle Tips:

Talk to the children about shape words: round, curved, corners, sides, flat, circle, pointed, square, triangle etc. Use prepositional words to talk to children about whereabouts they are putting their juicy toppings: on, next to, between, under, around etc.

## Links to the Muddy M's

Muddy Movers - Playing in the snow. Simple, wonderful, snowy fun.  
Mental Strength- Describing the colour and texture of snow. How is it different on certain objects. What sounds does it make when you bring it together?  
Mother Nature - What is snow and how is it formed?



# Snowy Days





## Listen to what we have done today!

Today, we have worked together to investigate different shapes. We have thought about how many sides and corners each of the shapes has, and how they are different to each other. We have used our art and craft skills to make lots of different shapes. We have used natural resources, learnt a little more about the science around us and we are beginning to understand how to take better care of our world.

## Your Muddy task :)

If you have the time, here are a few home learning tasks that you can try out with your child:

- On windy days, use rocks to create the outline of different shapes. Make some bigger or smaller, even try fitting shapes into shapes. For example, a small circle inside a big square.
- On rainy days, watch the shape the rain makes as it splashes into puddles.
- On sunny days, go on shape explorations. See how many shapes the children can spot in the world around us. For example, rectangular doors or circular wheels.



## Little things make big days





# Congratulations!

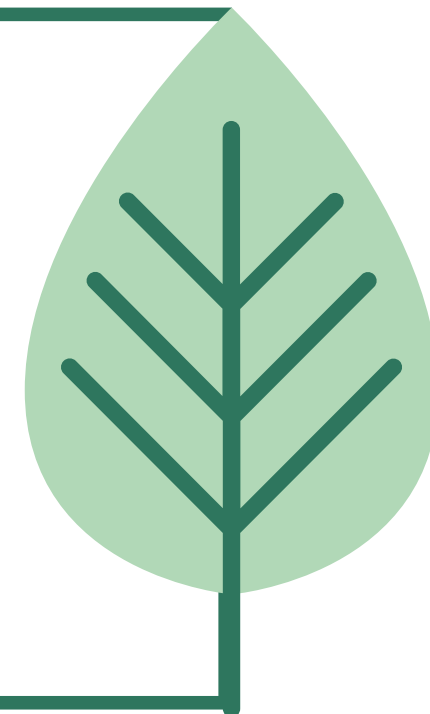


To

.....

**You have been awarded the  
Muddy Shape Award !**

For learning all about shape, outside with nature :)



Signed .....Date.....

Dream bigger. Do bigger.

**Message for parents!**

If your child likes to learn outside then  
check out our parent packs at:  
[www.themuddypuddleteacher.co.uk](http://www.themuddypuddleteacher.co.uk)