

Volume of Solids

Dear Family,

In this topic, your child is learning about volume and solids. First of all, your child is learning to describe solids in exact mathematical terms. For example, a three-dimensional box shape is a rectangular prism. A pipe or tube shape is a cylinder. An Egyptian pyramid is a rectangular pyramid (there are also triangular pyramids, with a triangular base). The parts of solids also have special names. A flat polygon-shaped surface of a solid is called a face. The line segment where two faces meet is an edge, and the point where three or more edges meet is a vertex.

Here is an activity you can do to help your child become familiar with solids and their properties.

Solid Information



Sphere



Triangular
Prism



Rectangular
Prism



Cylinder



Triangular
Pyramid



Rectangular
Pyramid



Cone

Step 1: Talk with your child about the properties of the solids on this page. How many faces does each solid have? How many bases? How many edges? How many vertices? Which solids have faces that are triangles? Which solids have faces that are rectangles? Which solids have faces that are circles? Which solid has only one face?

Step 2: Try to find an item in the shape of each solid. Encourage your child to relate a household object to each shape of each solid. If any shapes have yet to be related, ask your child to think of an object that might be found elsewhere or is a part of a building or a part of a machine.