

Primary Mathematics Toolkit - Support material

Shape and space: Transformation - Suggestions for teaching



FOSTERING PRODUCTIVE DISPOSITION

- Encourage children to engage in practical transformation activities with their peers, e.g., manipulating 2-D and 3-D shapes to create artwork, enlarging images using photocopiers.
- Highlight 'real-world' uses of transformation, e.g., in crafting, construction, architecture, and interior design.
- Provide opportunities for children to explore transformations and tessellations in art and architecture around the world, and draw/complete images of these using grids, e.g., tessellation in the art of M.C. Escher, symmetry and rotational symmetry in famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Taj Mahal, etc.

ENCOURAGING PLAYFULNESS WITH MATHEMATICS

- Encourage the children to develop their understanding of transformations through games and puzzles, e.g., tangrams, jigsaw puzzles, Tetris and online games such as Minecraft.
- Highlight and provide opportunities for children to explore and experiment with transformations through their own areas of interest, e.g., movements in dance and other sports, symmetry and tessellation in clothing, symmetry in nature.
- Challenge the children to complete transformations collaboratively, using a range of materials and digital tools, e.g., 2-D and 3-D shapes, geoboards, mirrors, grids, virtual manipulatives.





USING COGNITIVELY CHALLENGING TASKS

- Provide opportunities for children to investigate and engage in open-ended tasks involving transformation, e.g., design a theme park ride that features rotational symmetry, create a board game that features translation of game pieces.
- Vary tasks to provide appropriate levels of challenge, e.g., vary number of steps in a translation, the complexity of geometric shapes for tessellation, the number of co-ordinates in an image to be reflected or translated on a grid.
- Encourage children to collaboratively design patterns using tessellating polygons for enjoyment, and for specific purposes, e.g., creating seasonal artwork, interior design tasks online or in models of buildings.

EMPHASISING MATHEMATICAL MODELING

- Ensure that children have opportunities to explore transformations with a selection of resources, e.g., 2-D and 3-D shapes, art materials, geoboards, grids, digital tools and graphs.
- Encourage children to choose suitable ways to represent their ideas for reflection, rotation and tessellation, e.g., photographs, drawings, concrete representations, graphs, tables, using co-ordinate grids.
- Facilitate the children in applying their models for investigating transformation to new and meaningful contexts, e.g., explore symmetry in photographs of famous or local architecture.





PROMOTING MATHS TALK

- Model the use of language of transformation in everyday experiences and in other areas of the curriculum, e.g., symmetry in artwork, enlarging objects by 'zooming in' with a camera, rotating hands, feet, hips, etc. in stretches for sports.
- Provide opportunities for the children to engage in mathematical discussion about transformations through open-ended and higher-order questioning, e.g., tell me about the ways that this shape can be changed or transformed? Describe the features of a shape that support tessellation? Explain how many unique nets of a cube/cuboid are possible?
- Encourage the children to represent and share their knowledge and understanding of transformations through movement and gestures as well as discussion.