Young children naturally explore geometrical concepts in their environment (Pecaski McLennan, 2014). Adults can help children deepen their understanding of these concepts through the use of related vocabulary words. As adults expose children to various two- and three-dimensional shapes and provide them opportunities to analyze shapes, they help children develop their understanding of—not only shape attributes but—their problem-solving skills as well. (EI 10.1 Shape Recognition; 13.1 Creativity)

**Ways for Exploring Shapes**

**Recognizes & Names**
- Identifies 2D & 3D shapes
- Discovers shapes in the environment
- Plays a shape-guessing game

**Creates & Compares**
- Creates structures or pictures with shapes (e.g., shape-scapes)
- Makes & creates new shapes
- Plays with tangrams

**Spatial Relationships**
- Understands orientations
- Moves shapes to fit a space
- Plays a transformation game (e.g., flip your teddy up on its side)

References:
