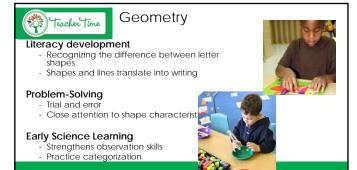




Geometry

- Math related to shapes, size, and positioning of figures;
- Early math skills predict later math success;
- More early, math-related activities predict math skills in elementary school







Spatial Sense

- Math related to knowing the shape of your environment;
- Knowing the position of your body in space;
- Ability to recognize, visualize, represent, and transform geometric shapes





Spatial Sense

- Preschoolers are beginning to grasp spatial vocabulary with help from an adult;
- Older preschoolers understand basic spatial knowledge such as directionality, order, up/down, front/behind





Cognition: Emergent Mathematical Thinking

Doug Clements & Crystal Day-Hess Marsico Institute of Early Learning and Literacy





Cognition: Emergent Mathematical Thinking

- Geometry is part of how children come to know the world.
- Children develop spatial sense by moving through the world.
- Children need rich experiences with a wide variety of shapes.





Cognition: Emergent Mathematical Thinking

- We use spatial relationships to understand geometric forms
- Slides, flips, and turns are spatial relationships
- Combining shapes is spatial relationships, as well as
- Knowledge of how shapes go together to make other shapes





Cognition: Emergent Mathematical Thinking

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Effective Teaching Practices

- Use spatial words
- Create activities for children to explore spatial concepts and talk to them about how they move
- Offer a wide variety of shapes that are different and can be compared
- Give children vocabulary for parts and attributes
- Use shape books to teach about creativity and transformation of shapes





Ongoing Assessment

• Focused observation and intentional engagement





Ongoing Assessment

If your birthday falls between January and June:

If your birthday falls between July and December:

Where/when are you most likely to assess Geometry?

Where/when are you most likely to assess Spatial Sense?



Ongoing Assessment

- Focused observation and intentional engagement
- Two-way communication
- Families are the best source of information







