



## **YOUR GUIDE TO GETTING YOUR CHILD OUTDOORS**

# EXPLORE OUTDOORS SERIES

**low-prep activities  
parent friendly  
educator recommended**

### **activity 1**



# EXPLORING SHAPES OUTDOORS

## Ages

3-6 Years

## Time

30 Minutes

## Materials Needed

Cardboard, Markers

## Environment

Any outdoor space

## LEARNING OUTCOMES



Recognize and name common pre-writing lines (e.g., vertical, horizontal, diagonal, curves, zigzags) within their drawings.



Understand that all letters, numbers, and shapes are formed by lines, building foundational knowledge for handwriting and letter formation.



Identify and label pre-writing lines



Trace, draw or copy observed shapes on cardboard using markers, practicing fine-motor control and creativity.

## PREPARATION

Cut out cardboard (roughly 8x8) for each child

*Cardboard is great because children can easily draw while holding it or resting it on the ground*

Use recycled cardboard if possible | Cardboard will still hold up in light rain

## ACTIVITY

Show child (children) what the following lines look like:

### **Curved Line**



Examples: Rainbows, parts of a circle, tree stumps, flower petals

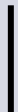
### **Horizontal Straight Line**



Examples: Tree branches, sidewalk cracks, grass

### **Vertical Line**

Examples: Windows, tree trunks, sticks



### **Diagonal Line**



Examples: Roof lines, sloping hillsides, vines



# EXPLORING SHAPES OUTDOORS

## ACTIVITY (CONTINUED)

Head out on a shape discovery walk! Shapes and lines can be found everywhere!

Depending on your child's writing skills, they can attempt to copy lines or shapes they see.

Suppose your child is just learning how to control the marker strokes- no problem! *Just give them space and time to draw or doodle what they see.*

Your child has no interest in drawing/writing? Absolutely fine!

*You can verbalize what you find on the walk or draw the lines and shapes yourself as a model.*

Have a child working on letters and numbers? What lines do they find on the walk that make up parts of a letter or number?

- *For example, A diagonal line helps make part of the letter "A".*
- *For example, A curved line helps make part of the number "5".*

You can also collect items as you walk: sticks, plants, rocks, leaves. Use these items to create shapes, letters, and numbers.

Remember- **HAVE FUN!** The main goal is to get outside and get moving. Anything else is an added bonus.

Children drawing shapes they found in nature.



Children learning how the barn is made up of diagonal lines (roof) and straight lines.

The straight lines also make up squares and rectangles in the window!

