

Mathematical Moments: Shape with two year olds

Comparing two objects to see if they have the same shape



Rabia, a childminder, is playing with two year old Jasmine and 10 month old David on the floor. Rabia watches Jasmine's play, showing an interest in what Jasmine does and providing encouragement through her facial expressions, gestures and talk. Rabia observes Jasmine running her hand over the blocks, picking one up (a 2x2 Duplo block) and pushing it onto the top of another 2x2 brick. Recognising that Jasmine is making a tower-like structure, Rabia decides to model comparing shapes, recognising same and different shaped bricks.

Rabia watches Jasmine pushing a 2x2 brick onto another 2x2 brick, although this time the brick is a different colour. Rabia states, "I am going to make one like yours" and begins with a 2x2 Duplo brick, adding another 2x2 brick on top of it. Jasmine's attention is drawn to the shape of the bricks and she decides for herself that she wants to use only bricks with the same shape in her construction. Jasmine watches and holds up her tower to show Rabia. Rabia deliberately chooses a 4x2 Duplo and moves it to her tower, showing Jasmine that she is looking at the new brick and the tower to check it is the same shape as the bricks in the tower. Rabia shakes her head, "No, that's not the same shape" and repeats this with a 3x2 Duplo brick. Jasmine's eyes quickly look over the bricks on the floor and she finds what she is looking for, holding it up for Rabia to see "here t'is", she tells Rabia. Rabia looks across the bricks on the floor and finds a 2x2 Duplo which is a different colour but the same shape as the one Jasmine is holding up. Rabia holds it up next to Jasmine's "is this one the same?", she asks. Jasmine looks closely and excitedly nods, "yes".