

Building Math Skills

Look for lines of symmetry in nature to build math skills

Look at a picture of a butterfly. Fold it in half. The two sides match up. That means the butterfly, like many other things in nature, is symmetrical.

Helping your child learn to look for lines of symmetry is a good way for her to recognize patterns. It is also a fun family activity that can give your child a new way of looking at nature.

Here's how to get started:

- * Look for natural objects that are symmetrical. Flowers, leaves, shells and butterflies may all have these lines.

- * Have your child predict where the line of symmetry will be. Then fold along that line to see if the two sides match up exactly.

- * Look for lines of symmetry in other places. You can have your child look through the pages of a magazine or book. Remember that lines of symmetry can be vertical (as in the letter A) or horizontal (as in the letter B). They can even be diagonal. Sometimes, a figure may have more than one line of symmetry.

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