KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

During the next few days, our math class will focus on the differences between flat and solid shapes. We will sort shapes in several ways. Sometimes the teacher will specify a criterion, for example, “shapes with curves.” At other times, students will create their own sorting criteria, for example, “shapes that roll” and “shapes that don’t roll.” We will wrap up this module with a fun Shape Fair that gives students an opportunity to use a variety of skills—drawing, making, counting, sorting, and naming flat and solid shapes.

You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Identify the shape that does not belong in a group.
- Search your kitchen for solid and flat shapes, and make a collage by drawing or tracing the shapes.

SAMPLE PROBLEM  (From Lesson 9)

Circle the pictures of the flat shapes with red. Circle the pictures of the solid shapes with green.
HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- Cut drinking straws to various lengths, and use the pieces as sides to make flat shapes. Encourage your child to recreate various shapes. Ask, “Which shape cannot be made by connecting the ends of the straws?” (Circle.)

- Practice number fluency with your child. Quickly flash a few fingers, and then hide them behind your back. Ask your child to tell how many fingers she saw.

- Play I Spy with flat and solid shapes. For example, say, “I spy a red shape in the kitchen.” Invite your child to ask questions (e.g., “Is it solid?” “Is it a sphere?” “Is it under the table?”) until he correctly identifies the item you spied.