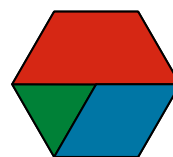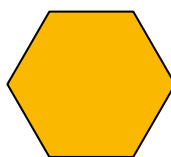# FAMILY MATH
Composition of Shapes

Dear Family,

Your student is exploring how smaller shapes can be combined to create new, larger shapes. A composed shape is made from putting 2 or more shapes together. Your student makes composed shapes by using combinations of shapes and drawings. They add to composed shapes and recognize the patterns that result.
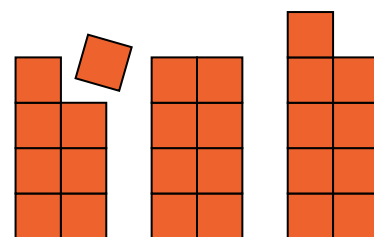
We composed a rectangle out of 2 triangles. We combined our rectangles to make a new composed shape.

This hexagon can be composed of a trapezoid, a triangle, and a rhombus.

Each time we add a shape, there is a pattern. When we add a square to this 6-sided figure, it becomes a 4-sided figure. When we add another square, it becomes a 6-sided figure again.

At-Home Activities

Search for Composed Shapes

Encourage your student to look for composed shapes around the home. For example, look at tiles in a kitchen or at a window with panes to explore how smaller shapes can be combined to make composed shapes. Ask your student questions like these to help them explore how smaller shapes can be combined to make composed shapes.

- "What shapes do you see?"
- "Can 2 small shapes be combined to make a composed shape? How about 4 small shapes?"
- "How many sides does the composed shape have?"
- "How many composed shapes do you see?"

Make Composed Shapes

Use masking tape or chalk to explore how a shape can be composed of other shapes. Start with a rectangular tabletop or section of sidewalk. Invite your student to use the tape or chalk to divide the surface into 2 smaller shapes. Ask your student questions like these to help them name and explore additional shapes.

- "Can you name the shapes?"
- "Could you divide the composed shape into even more shapes?"

Consider repeating the activity on a new surface or by creating different shapes on the same surface.