

# Exploring Symmetry



Using loose parts to make patterns, faces and characters.



Creating their own face is a great way to explore symmetry in a context your child will understand. To create a face, encourage your child to use loose parts (small natural and man-made objects found about the home) to create a character. The symmetry will often happen automatically when it is a face as it is an in-built understanding. If it does not you can encourage your child to look in a mirror and talk about how they have 2 eyes, 2 eyebrows, an ear on either side, their nose is in the middle, their mouth is a mirror image on either side of the central line. Invite your child to make the features of their character reflect on either side, like our faces.

## Materials

- Picture frame (this gives children a base and structure to work inside)
- Tray with different sections. (e.g. a baking tray)
- Assorted loose parts like corks, pegs, feathers, pom-poms, pebbles, wood slices, sticks, shells, leaves, bolts - anything you may have.

## What to do

- Talk to your child about patterns that are symmetrical i.e. the same on each side as mirror images.
- Ask your child to find some closely matching pairs of similar objects.
- Encourage them to lay them out ready to make some mirror patterns. You can use a string as a dividing line and encourage your child to place the objects on either side of the string. If one object is placed top left, the matching object on the other side should be placed top right.

## Data and analysis

*I can match objects, and sort using my own and other' criteria, sharing my ideas with others.*

**MNU 0-20b**

## Angle, symmetry, and transformation

*I have fun creating a range of symmetrical pictures and patterns using a range of media. **MNU 0-19a***

