



Geometry tiles

These tiles are made from $\frac{1}{4}$ " birch plywood, cut into rectangles twice as long as they are wide. (Ours are 5.5" by 2.75", but the precise dimensions aren't important as the fact that one is twice the other.) You can dye them with food coloring in water, then paint with acrylic black paint. (We didn't use food coloring on ours because it fades in sunlight; we used a water-based pigment paint.)



Here are a few fun things to do with them:

1. Make squares of various sizes.
2. Make shapes with 5 sides, or 6 sides. Is there any number of sides you can't make with them?
3. Use the colors and shapes to make interesting patterns.
4. fds

As children play with these tiles they notice and use relationships between shapes (*a square is made up of two triangles*). They visualize and plan. They count. All of these activities activate children's math minds while they're having fun and being creative.

(Search "Fun with Tiles" on talkingmathwithkids.com for an example of the kind of math talk these tiles can initiate.)