



HELLO PARENTS,

Shapes are everywhere and children learn to distinguish between them early on. Learning shapes helps children identify and organize visual information, and improves their skills in other areas, such as reading, math, science, problem solving and abstract thinking. Talking about shapes and discussing their attributes support children's language development. This newsletter provides you with activities that will make your child think about and explore shapes.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

SHAPE BASKET

MATERIALS:

- A collection of toys in different shapes (balls, blocks, Lego, etc.)
- Plastic container

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the container with the toys you have collected.
- Let your child explore and discover each object.
- Talk about the shape of each toy (the ball is round, the block is square, etc.)
- Show your baby the toys that are the same shape.

[Click here](#) to play with your infant a rhyming song.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

SHAPE MATCHING

MATERIALS:

- Sand paper
- Crayons
- Shapes cut from felt or polar fleece

DIRECTIONS:

- Draw simple shapes on sand paper using a crayon.
- Cut the exact same shapes from felt.
- Encourage your child to compare the shapes and place the matching felt pieces on the sand paper sheet.
- Talk about each shape, name it and give simple descriptions.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

SHAPE CREATURES

MATERIALS:

- Collection of shapes cut out from thick paper (you can use empty cereal boxes, etc.). Make sure to have multiple shapes of the same type (i.e. multiple squares, circles, triangles, stars, etc.).
- A container to hold the shapes

DIRECTIONS:

- Collect all different shapes in a container.
- Encourage your child to create creatures or other things using these shapes (suggestions: monsters, animals, buildings, flowers).
- Talk about what shapes they are using for different parts of what they are creating.

[Click here](#) to read "Round is a Mooncake", by Roseanne Thong.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

SHAPE BINGO

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencils, markers
- Container
- Buttons

DIRECTIONS:

- Make Bingo cards with your child; divide each page into a grid of 5 by 5 squares.
- Draw different shapes (circles, squares, triangles, pentagons, diamonds, etc.) in each square, so that each Bingo card is different.
- Take some of the cards and cut them up into small squares with one shape on each.
- Put the squares in the container.
- Each player gets one Bingo card and a handful of buttons.
- The player who gets all shapes in a row first calls out Bingo.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

STYROFOAM SHAPE GEOBOARD

MATERIALS:

- Thick Styrofoam (or stack several vegetable Styrofoam trays together)
- Nails
- Rubber bands
- Ruler

DIRECTIONS:

- Make a grid on the styrofoam base to determine where the nails will be placed.
- Use a ruler to space the holes for the nails.
- The nails should be approximately 5cm apart to support the tension in the rubber bands.
- Make patterns, explore symmetry, create shapes within shapes.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Refer to shapes of objects in everyday conversations with your child.
- Go with your child for a walk and look around for examples of shapes in the environment.
- Look at the clouds and describe what you see.
- Point out the similarities and differences between various shapes.