

# Early Literacy Kit :: Shapes Guide

## About This Kit

The items and activities in this kit will help your child get ready to learn about concepts that will prepare them for school. Here are some ideas to get you started and practice at home. Follow your child's lead and have fun!

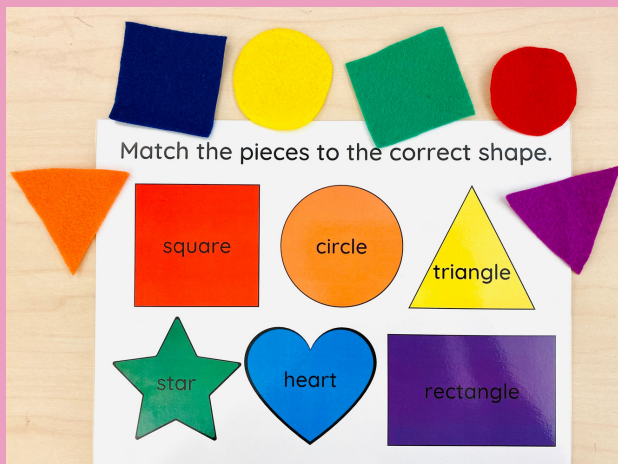
## What's included:

- Board book
- Picture book
- Hands on activities
- Literacy tips
- Rhymes & songs
- Discussion topics
- DIY ideas

## Facts - Did you know?

Everything we see in the world around us has a shape. These geometric shapes appear in objects we see as credit cards, bills and coins, finger rings, photo frames, dart boards, huts, windows, magician's wands, tall buildings, flower pots, toy trains, and balloons.

## Activity #1: Shape Sorting



1. Match the flannel pieces to their correct shape on the board.
2. Practice counting the sides for each shape.

## Board Book Suggestions

- Shapes by Jan Cabrera
- Stanley's Shapes by William Bee
- This is a Book of Shapes by Kenneth Kraegel
- My Big Touch-and-feel Concepts Book by Xavier Deneux

## Picture Book Suggestions

- Big Box of Shapes by Wiley Blevins
- Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets by Hena Khan
- My Heart is Like a Zoo by Michael Hall
- Round is a Mooncake by Roseanne Thong
- Shape by Shape by Sue MacDonald

## Literacy Tip #1

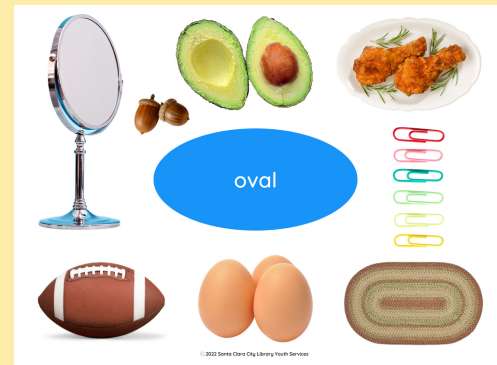
Notice and point out the different shapes around you. This will help your child start to notice the differences, which will be helpful when they start to learn to read and need to differentiate between letters.

## Discussion: Let's Talk About Shapes

Use these questions to help explore this concept!

- What are some shapes in this room?
- What is the shape of a wheel, of a door, or a book?
- What shape has 3 sides? What shapes have 4 sides? 5 sides?
- What shapes do you see in this book?
- Do any of these shapes look like things you have at home?
- What kinds of shapes can you find outside?
- What is your favorite shape and why?

## Activity #2: Shape Cards



Use the shape cards to explore everyday objects that resemble that shape. Use these images to introduce new vocabulary words as well!

## Literacy Tip #2

Before children learn letters, they are aware of shapes. Before they have the coordination to hold a crayon and write they can move their whole arms and bodies. Make a circle shape with your whole body.

## Songs & Rhymes

### Action Song: Do You Know (The Muffin Man)

Do you know what shape this is,  
What shape this is, what shape this is?  
Do you know what shape this is  
I'm holding in my hand?

\*Hold up different shapes or the flannel pieces as you sing this song or use your hands to make the shapes.

### Song: The Shape Song

A circle's like a ball, a circle's like a ball,  
Round and round, it never stops.  
A circle's like a ball!

A square is like a box, A square is like a box,  
It has four sides, they are the same.  
A square is like a box!

A triangle has 3 sides, A triangle has 3 sides,  
Up the mountain, down, and back.  
A triangle has 3 sides!

## Try This at Home

Go on a "Shape Walk" as you explore around your neighborhood, point out the different shapes you see.

What kind of shapes make up a tree, a building, or even a signal light?



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