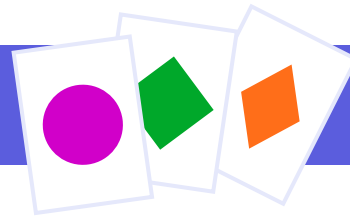




Extended Learning for Educators

WHAT MAKES A SHAPE



Purpose

To reinforce both the distinguishing properties of shapes and shape constancy

Learning Goals

- Correctly identify shapes by analyzing their properties
- Recognize and identify shapes regardless of size, color, orientation, or proportion
- Coordinate visual-spatial and gross motor skills

What You Need

- Paper (printer or construction)
- Markers, pens, crayons

Step 1 Print shape sheets below. You can also make shape sheets by drawing big shapes, one per sheet of paper. Include circles, ovals, squares, rectangles, parallelograms, trapezoids, and a variety of triangles such as equilateral, isosceles, and right. Aim for a variety of sizes. Rotate some of the squares and triangles.

Step 2 In the RelationShapes™ app, play the first item in level 3 or higher. In Picture It, resize and rotate the shapes. Talk about how you know the shape is a square or a triangle.

Step 3 Create mazes by placing shape sheets in patterns on the floor for children to walk on. Have fun changing the shape children must find, the length of the maze, and distractors (i.e., similar looking shapes.)

Try the following mazes or make up your own:

Maze

- ◆ Circles and ovals
- ◆ Squares and rectangles
- ◆ All types of triangles
- ◆ Rectangles, squares, and parallelograms

Shape to Find

- ◆ Circles
- ◆ Squares
- ◆ Equilateral, isosceles, or right triangles
- ◆ Rectangles

Step 4 Have children walk through the mazes according to one simple rule (e.g., “Walk this maze by stepping only on squares!”)

Step 5 Provide feedback by removing incorrect shapes from the maze when children step on them. For example, if children step on a rectangle instead of a square, remove the rectangle and explain the difference between the shapes (e.g., “This shape doesn’t have four sides that are the same length, so it can’t be a square.”)

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW!

- Switch roles so that you are the “student” and children are the “teacher.” Walk the maze making intentional mistakes (e.g., if squares are the target, try stepping on a rectangle). Will children notice and correct your mistakes?
- Challenge children to differentiate between triangles by creating a maze that includes all types. For example, ask children to step only on the triangles that have two equal sides, or only on the triangles with a right angle.

