



Shapes

"A child's greatest achievements are possible in play, achievements that tomorrow will become his or her basic level of real action." – Lev Vygotsky

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Skippyjon Jones Shape Up by Judy Schachner

Why this book? Skippyjon Jones Shape Up explores introductory Math concepts such as identifying shapes regardless of orientation or size, modeling shapes in the real world using different kinds of manipulatives, and comparing shapes using informal language.

Ages: 3 to 5 Years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Together, identify the shape and action on each page. Do the actions associated with each shape as you read the action words.
 - Kit Supplies: Large felt shapes

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Use the Wikki Stix kit to help create the different shapes found in the book or combine them to introduce new ones.

Discussion topics:

- Compare shapes based on number of sides, size, and orientation.
- Rotate the shape and discuss if the shape is still the same shape.
- Use the instruction prompts included to talk about objects in your environment.

Kit Supplies: Wikki Stix kit

- 2) Give each child a plastic shape and go on a shape scavenger hunt to identify shapes in your environment. Use the plastic shapes to look through and match up similar shapes.
Extension: Keep a tally of how many of each shape you can find.

Kit Supplies: Plastic shape set

- 3) Use the plastic shapes as a template and trace them to create a picture. See how many shapes you can include in one picture. Talk about what kinds of things are the shape of a (square, triangle, circle, etc). This would be a great follow up activity to your shape scavenger hunt.
Extension: Use the plastic shapes as cookie cutters and try this activity with playdough!

Kit Supplies: Plastic shape set



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BODY PARTS

When we play, dopamine is released which induces elation, excitement, and orchestrates nerve net development and alignment all over the brain. When we are able to take in our fill of sensory stimuli, process and integrate it with richly developed base patterns, and express new insights in a creative way, both physically and verbally, we are then truly at play.

Carla Hannaford - Smart Moves:
Why Learning Is Not All In
Your Head

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes celebrates babies from all over the world and one of the things that connect them all – their adorable fingers and toes!

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 0 to 3 years

- Before you read the book sing a song with the children.

Take off everyone's shoes and touch each of your fingers and toes as you sing encouraging them to do the same. Sing "One little, two little, three little fingers. Four little, five little, six little fingers. Seven little, eight little, nine little fingers. Ten little fingers on my hand." Repeat for toes.

- As you read, leave off the last word. Touch the picture and see if the children can fill in the blanks... especially for the words "fingers" and "toes."
- After you finish reading the story, try to relate the book to the children's experiences. Look at the pictures on each page and ask if any of the children have had a similar experience. You might say, "Look at this picture. What are the babies riding on? That's right, a swing! Have you ever ridden on a swing? Were you having fun and laughing just like the baby?"

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Baby Picture Guessing Game: Ask the parents/caregivers of each child to give you a baby picture of their child letting them know that you'll be keeping the photo to make it into a game for their child. Make a Peek-a-Boo Board out of the photos, putting each photo under a felt flap. When children look under the flap they'll find the baby photos of all their friends. You can enhance this game by asking specific children to find the photo of another child.

Kit Supplies: Peek-a-Boo Board

- 2) Play "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes".

