**Shapes Resource Guide**

\*adapted from the work of the Grant County Public Library

**Goals**

* Recognizes and describes shapes
* Sort/classify or compare and order objects by shape, size and color
* Explore the relationship among two-dimensional figrures and three dimensional objects1

These goals were taken from Building a Strong Foundation for School Success: Kentucky’s Early Childhood Standards https://kidsnow.ky.gov/families/readiness/Documents/early-childhood-standards.pdf

**Read**

**Suggested Activities**

* Read a story about shapes and have the children make each shape either by themselves or with a friend.
* Read a book about buildings and have the children build their own building. As they put each block on, talk about it’s shape and take a picture of the completed building and all your construction workers.
* Read books that children can “draw” the illustrations with their finger. They can outline the numbers.

**School Readiness Asides to Parents and Caregivers**

* Translating a building from a picture to a block building helps children understand that many things in their environment are three dimensional not two dimensional as they see it on the page.

**Write**

**Suggested Activities**

* In a tub of sand or shaving cream have children create a shape and let them give you clues so you can guess what shape it is.
* Give children crayons or markers and let them draw or trace shapes.
* Place shapes in a sensory bin and have the children use tongs to pull them out.
* Have children cut out different shapes.
* Create shapes on a flannel board with painters tape and have children trace the shape with their finger.

**School Readiness Asides to Parents and Caregivers**

* Giving preschoolers lots of practice with **shapes** helps them solidify their understanding of the two-dimensional structures (such as squares) and three dimensional structures (such as cubes)
* Shapes begin to teach the concepts of “same” and “different.” After learning shapes, children can start to group objects together, which will become a part of learning how to count, add, and subtract.

**Sing**

What Shape is this?  Sung to: "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?

Square Shape Song Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Put your square shapes in the air,
Hold it high and keep it there.
Put your square shape on your back,
Now please lay it on your lap.
Put your square shape on your toes,
Now please hold it by your nose.
Hold your square shape in your hand,
Now will everyone please stand.
Wave your square shape at the door,
Now please lay it on the floor.
Hold your square shape and jump, jump, jump,
Now throw your square shape way, way up.

**Talk**

**Suggested Activities**

* Talk about the two dimensional shapes (circle, square, etc) but also talk about the three dimensional shapes (sphere, cube, etc.). See how many two and three dimensional shapes that the children can find.
* Take a shapes walk around your building or the neighborhood and let the children tell you which shapes they see. See how many two and three dimensional shapes that the children can find.
* Create a word chart with children having the shape and the name of the shape written at the top of the page. Have the children list things that are that shape.

**School Readiness Asides to Parents and Caregivers**

* By adding words such as cube and sphere you are building a child’s vocabulary.
* By giving children the opportunity to find shapes in their everyday world, you are teaching that math is all around us.

**Play**

**Suggested Activities**

* Draw some shapes on the sidewalk or put down strips of painters tape on the carpet and have children do specific actions while they are standing on specific shapes (turn in a circle while standing in a circle, jump three times when in a square, etc.)
* Play shapes bingo either using a premade game or make one yourself.
* Create shapes puzzles using popsicle sticks. Tape the sticks together first then draw the shape with half on one stick and the other half the other stick. After you make multiple puzzles mix them all up together and have the children match shapes.

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**School Readiness Asides to Parents and Caregivers**

* By having children stand on shapes and do activities, they are not only practicing gross motor skills but also shape recognition.
* Popsicle stick puzzles are easy to make and can be easily replaced if a piece goes missing

**Citation Page**

1 ALIGNMENT OF STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS. (2003, October 1). Retrieved March 07, 2017, from https://kidsnow.ky.gov/families/readiness/Documents/early-childhood-standards.pdf