

# Shape Day

## Activity Suggestions:

- \* Shape Puzzle
- \* Play Dough
- \* Glue shapes onto paper
- \* Bake Cookies
- \* Shape Booklet
- \* Styrofoam Ornaments
- \* World's Best Play dough
- \* Let child stack mixing bowls inside each other

## Square Day

- \* Make car out of box
- \* Stack square boxes

## Circle Day

- \* Play with balls (basketball, golf, roll back and forth, kick ball)
- \* Stack mixing bowls
- \* Roll a tennis ball into a bucket
- \* Tubular Tunnels
- \* Make UFO's
- \* Balloons! (Make whipped cream faces)

## Circle Day Agenda

- 9:30 \* Throw circle lids into pots, pans, & bowls
- \* Tubular Tunnels
  - \* Circle Safari (eye spy)
- 9:45 \* Play Dough
- \* Shape Puzzles
- 10:00 \* Snack (vanilla wafers, grapes, banana circles)
- \* Make Cookies
- 10:20 \* Balloons (draw faces on them)
- \* UFO's

## Circle Safari

**For Preschoolers:** Find a circle in your toy chest that rolls and bounces. Find 4 circles on your toy truck. Look on the wall for a circle that ticks and has numbers on it.

**For Older Kids:** Name something that you drink out of that's round on top. When your child guesses a cup, ask her why she thinks the opening is circular. Explain that when you tilt a glass for drinking, the liquid comes out in a thin stream. To demonstrate, have her try to drink out of the flat side of a square plastic container.

Find something round that helps you open the door. Ask her if it would be harder or easier if the doorknob were a triangle or square. Take an orange and a banana and have her pretend they are doorknobs, holding them in mid-air. Which one is easier to turn in a circle? Explain that the round orange best fits the shape of her hand. Name something round that gives off light. A light bulb is round, you can explain, because the shape allows the light to shine equally in all directions.

## Make a Puzzle with Felt and Velcro

Begin by drawing a simple picture of an shape, animal, or scene on a piece of paper. Then, decide how many pieces you want in your puzzle (4-6 will probably be best) and what parts of your picture will be puzzle pieces. Once this is decided, copy your entire picture onto the back of your puzzle. A pellow sheet will work best, but stiff cardboard will also work to make your puzzle back.

Next, take your draft copy (on the paper) and cut out the pieces which will make up your puzzle, trace them onto felt or pellow, and cut out. Use sticky-backed Velcro or glue Velcro to back of puzzle pieces and puzzle back. In this example, the flowers are puzzle pieces. The stems and grass consist of felt that has been glued onto the puzzle back. Puzzle complexity can be increased according to the abilities of your child.

## Shell and Pea Game

You will need three opaque plastic cups and a small ball or other object that will slide easily. Let your child watch you put the ball under one of the three cups and rearrange all three of them. Let your child try to guess which cup has the ball under it.

## Make UFO's

### Materials Needed:

2 full size Paper plates  
glue  
exacto knife  
markers & stickers  
optional- tissue paper and tape

**Directions:** Cut small holes around the flat part of both paper plates. Make a door by cutting a same sized flap on both plates (so the door opens both up and down for the aliens to get in from earth or elsewhere?) Decorate bottoms of plates with stickers and markers.

**Optional:** before gluing the plates together, tape tissue paper inside so the windows are colored, then when you're done you can shine a light through the door and see the pretty colors. Army men make good aliens...

## Make a Chef's Hat

**Materials Needed:** 4 large sheets of tissue paper, tape

**Directions:** Lay 3 of the large tissue paper sheets on top of each other, having a 3-ply rectangle. Fold the bottom up approximately 4 inches. Repeat 2 more times until you have a 4 inch tall rectangle. Tape into a circular band to fit the circumference of your child's head. Tape the edges of the final piece of tissue paper around the band, gathering and bunching to create a large pouf on top. I did this in a rather haphazard fashion and it turned out great!

## Play Games with Frozen Juice Lids

Many games can be played with these metal tops found on frozen juice cans. Putting "in" and taking "out" is always fun. Try counting them, writing numbers on them, or writing the alphabet on them. Paint them to learn the colors

For another game, use a can with a plastic lid. Cut a slit in it wide enough for tops to fit in. Use it as a bank- the juice lids become play money. (and a full bank makes a neat musical instrument!) Draw a circle on the floor with string. Play "toss into the ring". Make more complicated toss games as your child gets older.

## Shape Puzzle

A variety of materials could be used for this project- but I like "Foamies" the best. Foamies are pieces of foam rubber made for children's crafts. They come in a variety of colors and can usually be found in square or rectangular sheets. You can find Foamies at your local craft store, though on occasion, I have found them at Walmart.

First, use an exacto blade to cut out shapes. Then, glue the cut-out foamie sheet to a piece of strong cardboard. (For added thickness, you may wish to glue another foamie sheet in between the cardboard and cut-out sheet) Finally, glue small loops of foam onto shapes for handles. Now you can fit the shapes into the holes!