



## Shape Recognition Suggested Activities

- **Add more shape descriptive language into your conversations:** Without changing your routine, in everyday life, try to embed more shape descriptive language into your daily conversations with your child. When you and your child are at the grocery store or riding in your vehicle, challenge your child to identify shapes of objects you both can clearly see. If you were at the grocery store browsing the cereal aisle, your conversation could sound something like this. “I’m looking for the corn flakes, can you help me find them?” When your child spots the corn flakes you could say, “Thank you for helping me find the corn flakes! Do you know what shape the corn flakes box is? Yes, you’re right. This box is shaped like a rectangle. How many sides does a rectangle have? Let’s count them together. Onnne, twoooo, threeee, four!”
- **Build shapes using popsicle sticks (or other uniform straight objects):** Popsicle stick shape building is an activity you and your child can work on using the shapes chart from earlier, or just shapes from memory. You can also use a wide variety of items besides popsicle sticks. You could use things like crayons, colored pencils, toothpicks, pencils, etc. the list goes on. From memory, or using a guide, like this shapes chart, your child can choose shapes off of the chart for you and him or her to recreate. You can ask your child what they think the name of the shape is and then point out the shapes characteristics. It could sound something like this, “You and I are going to use these popsicle sticks to make shapes. Why don’t you choose a shape for us to make? A triangle is a great choice! How many sides does a triangle have? Yes, you’re right! A triangle has three sides. Okay, let’s see if we can each make the triangle.
- **Make your own stencils to guide your child in tracing shapes:** DIY shape stencils are a fun way to familiarize your child with how to draw different shapes. For this activity you will need paper,

paper plates or thicker paper, coloring utensils, and scissors. Use one paper plate at a time to draw a large outline of a different shape. Poke a hole in the middle of the shape and cut out the middle. Give the stencils to your child to use to create designs of their choice on paper using the coloring utensils. While your child is using the stencils, you could ask questions like this, “You’ve used so many different colors, what a colorful drawing! Which shape do you think you’ve used the most? Which shape have you used the least so far?”

- **Sort small household items by shape:** For this shape sorting activity you will need paper, a writing utensil, a basket or plastic container, and an assortment of household items. To begin, on each piece of paper draw a large shape. Then use the basket to collect small household items that are the same shape as the ones you drew. You can collect things like buttons, bottle caps, or magnets if you drew a circle, or blocks, post-it notes, or a plastic Tupperware lid if you drew a square. Lay the papers on the floor or on a table in a row and set the basket next to the papers. Instruct your child to sort all the items in the basket by shape by placing the circular items on the piece of paper that has a circle drawn on it, etc.
- **Create a paper mosaic** For shape mosaic art you’ll need a pair of scissors, differently colored pieces of paper, white or black paper, and glue sticks. Cut out different small shapes using the colored paper so you end up with many different shapes (circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, etc) to choose from. Let your child use the shapes to create their own masterpiece by gluing the shapes down onto the white or black paper. We encourage you to also create your own masterpiece alongside your child! It’s the perfect opportunity to ask questions about what they are making and to narrate what you are doing with the shapes for your piece. It could sound like this, “I’m going to make a red house using squares and am going to put a yellow roof on the top using triangles. I see that you are using the green squares to make a stem for your flower.”