

SHAPE GAMES

STRING SHAPES

- Give your child a 12" piece of string or yarn.
- Have them practice making different shapes with their piece of string.

PLAY DOUGH SHAPES

- Set out some play dough and some shape cookie cutters.
- Have your child make dough shapes.
- Be sure to have your child name each of the shapes they have made.

SHAPE LOTTO

You will need to make game boards for this game.

- Game boards can be made by dividing a large index card into 9 sections.
- Draw a different shape in each square. Mix up the shape placement on each card.
- Now make a set of cards with pictures of the 9 shapes.
- Each child takes a game card.
- One person is the game caller.
- The game caller, turns the small shape cards over on a table and mixes them up.
- They then turn over a card and the other players use a paper marker to cover that shape up on their game board.
- Game caller continues turning over shape cards.
- The first child to get three shapes in a row covered up, is the winner.

Note: Be sure all children know the names of each shape before beginning the game.

SHAPE MEMORY GAME

- Select 10 index cards and divide them into pairs.
- On each pair print a different shape. Two circle, two squares, etc.
- Mix up the cards and place them face down on the floor.
- Let one child begin by turning up two cards.
- If the letters match, let the child keep the cards.
- If the letters don't match, have the child replace both cards face down exactly where they were before.
- Continue the game until all the cards have been matched.
- Then let the child who ended up with the most cards have the first turn when you start the game again.

SHAPE TRAIN

Making the Cards

- Make 36 (2" x 1") cards of heavy paper.
- Divide each card into two sections.
- Make domino type cards using combinations of 8 different shapes.
- Start with eight cards.
- Choose one shape and put that shape on one side of each card with a different shape on the other side, plus one with both sides having the shape.
- Now take 7 cards and repeat the process with another shape paired with the remaining six shapes and one double.
- Now take 6 cards and continue the process, until you have all combinations.

Playing the Game

- Place all of the card game pieces on the floor and turn them over and mix them up.
- Divide the cards among the players.
- Have one child start the train by placing a card on the floor face up.
- Now the next player looks at his shape cards for a card he can use to hook up to the train on the floor.
- If a child has a turn but cannot find an appropriate card to hook on to the train, they must pass their turn.
- Children continue connecting and having turns until all the cards have been played, or until one child uses all his cards.

SHAPE BOARD GAME

Make a simple game board for your child. You will need a large piece of tag board or cardboard (approx. 12" x 18") plus some small plain index cards.

- Lay out the board and write "START" at the bottom and "FINISH" at the top.
- Next, draw a 1" curvy road back and forth across your board, starting at the Start sign and ending at the Finish sign.
- Section off the road with lines drawn every one inch.
- Now, draw a geometric shape in each square; such as; a circle, a square, a triangle and a rectangle.
- Next, take 12 - 16 index cards and draw equal numbers of pictures of these four shapes on the cards.
- Finally, turn the cards over and mix them up and stack them.

SHAPE BOARD GAME DIRECTIONS

The game can be played with 2-4 players.

- Give each child a small toy animal marker.
- Have each child take turns drawing a card from the card pile and moving his or her marker to the next shape square on the board that matches the one on the card drawn.
- If cards run out, reshuffle them and use again.
- The object of the game is to reach the finish line first.

SHAPE PUZZLES I

- Make another set of shape cards using index cards.
- Then, cut each card in half through the center of each drawn shape.
- Mix up the paper halves and have your child put the shapes back together again.
- Store halves in a small zip-lock bag.

Variation: You can often buy sets of cards with Momma and Baby animals.

SHAPE PUZZLES I

- Cut large geometric shapes out of different colored posterboard.
- Then, cut each shape into 4-6 piece puzzles.
- Place each puzzle in a zip-lock bag for storage.
- Let your child choose a bag, then complete the puzzle.
- Have child identify each shape he makes from the pieces.

Variation: You can often buy sets of cards with Momma and Baby animals.

SHAPE PICTURES

- Cut out a variety of 1-3" shapes from light weight cardboard (such as old cereal boxes). Include circles, triangles, squares and rectangles of various sizes.
- Give the pieces to your child and encourage him to make shape pictures with the shapes. (This was a favorite in our house when my children were small.)

● Store pieces in a zip-lock bag.

VARIATION: This activity can also be done with a felt board and felt shapes.