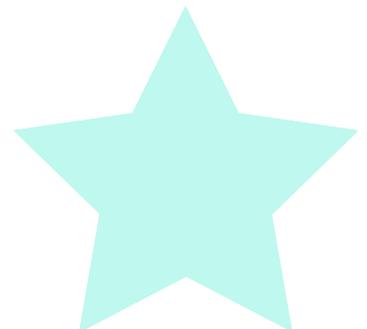
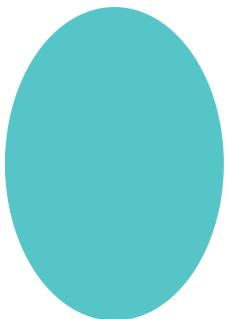
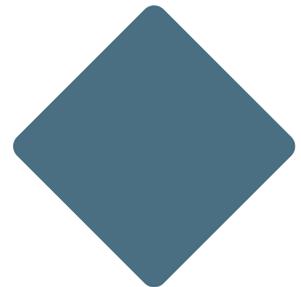
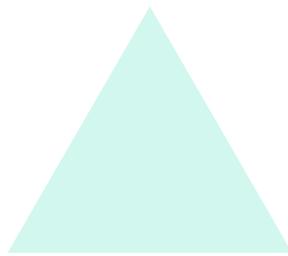
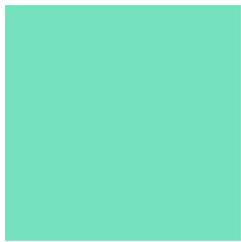
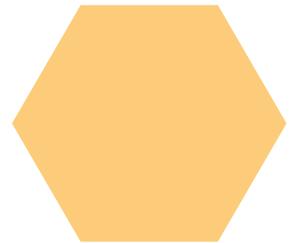
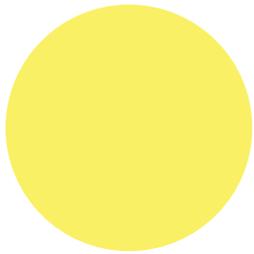


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# SHAPES



Early  
math

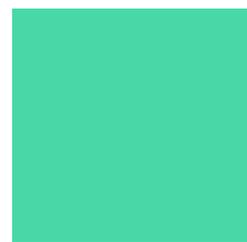
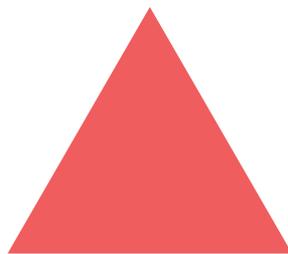
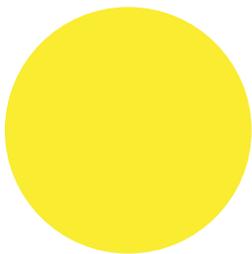
# THE SHAPE OF A HOME

What shapes are in your home?

Ask your child to tell you about shapes. How many can your little one think of? Invite them to discover shapes in your home. Their bed is a giant rectangle. The doorknobs are perfect circles. Perhaps there's a special triangle-shaped window in your home. How many shapes can they find in all? How many circles?

Would they enjoy snapping some photos of the shapes they find? Drawing them on a piece of paper?

For older children, you can begin to talk about the difference between 2D and 3D shapes.



## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Discerning shapes provides the building blocks for mathematical reasoning. When your child learns to discern the similarities and differences between shapes, they are using the same skills they need to recognize the differences between numerals.

Early  
Literacy

# ABC SET IN STONE

Which letter will you build today?

Invite your child to head outside for some fresh air. Begin collecting some rocks and pebbles. If rocks are not aplenty near you, find some sticks, leaves, acorns, or other natural materials.

Start making letters out of the materials, and invite your child to do the same. You can practice saying the sound that each letter makes. Can you spell your name? Your favorite animal? A message to a loved one?

If it's too cold or rainy outside, you can do the same thing indoors with cheerios, legos, blocks, marbles - whatever you've got laying around.



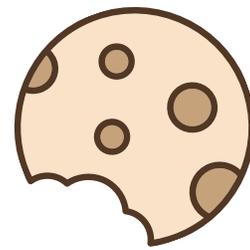
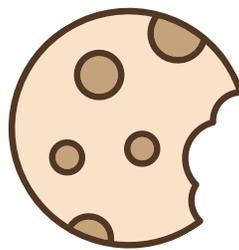
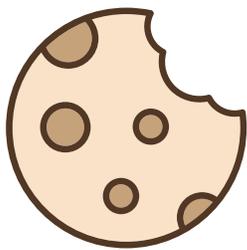
## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Letter recognition helps learners figure out how printed text is associated with the spoken language. Letter manipulatives (like rocks, in this case) give children a way to interact with the alphabet through hands-on play. They are able to feel the shape of the letter and arrange them on their own.

# COMPARING COOKIES

Which one is just right?

Break out your favorite cookie recipe and your trusty mixing bowls. (Bonus: As you bake together, call their attention to the various amounts of ingredients you're measuring.) When the dough is ready, divide it into three big chunks. In the first chunk, don't add any baking soda. In the second chunk, add  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of baking soda. And in the third chunk, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon. Invite your child to see just how small of a difference there is between the amounts. When the cookies are ready, try one of each. How would your child describe each one? Which one does your little one like the best?



## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Not only does the mixing, scooping, and pouring help with fine motor skills, but your little one's senses will be delighted by the process of baking. Making comparisons is an important mathematical concept. And seeing just how a tiny amount of baking soda can have such a significant effect on a cookie serves as a reminder about how your little one can make a big difference in the world.

Relationships

# YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

Who will you write to today?

Using a shoebox, or a large envelope, or two papers taped together (whatever you've got!), sit with your child and create a mailbox for each member of your family. The mailboxes can be hung on one central spot in your home, or on each person's bedroom door.

Can you write messages to family members on different shaped paper? A circle, triangle, rectangle, diamond, etc. Get the ball rolling by surprising each person with a letter or drawing the next morning.



## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Create connections with each member of the household, strengthen interpersonal skills, creative and artistic skills, and writing skills.

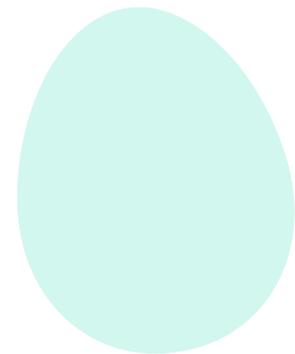
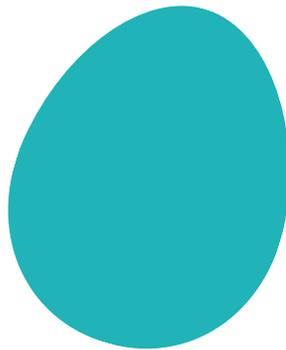
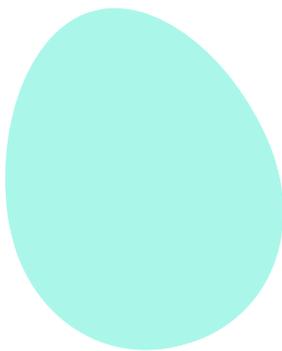
Movement

# PLAYING CATCH

## What can you throw?

Ask your child if they'd like to go play catch. Find an open space, and practice playing catch. Try throwing underarm, overarm, sideways, under your legs, and any other way you can think of.

Then, try throwing items besides a traditional ball. Can you spare an oval-shaped egg? What would it be like to throw and catch a wet sponge? A coin? A square pillow?



### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Not only does playing catch teach kids naturally about patterns of motion, but research tells us that it also promotes self-confidence and bonding between the two people playing. So simple, yet so powerful.

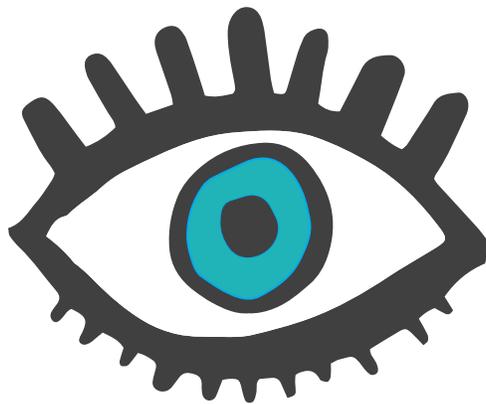
BONUS!

# HIDDEN SHAPES

What shapes will you discover today?

With a white crayon, draw one large shape on a white piece of paper. (Make multiple shapes if you'd like the activity to last a bit longer.) Tell your child you found some magic mystery paper! There are hidden shapes on the paper that they have to find! Give them a marker, water color, or finger paint and have them color over the paper. The shapes you drew will magically appear! Water color works best.

What else can you hide on the paper? Can you reverse roles and have your child hide shapes from you?



## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

This is a novel way to get kids more familiar with and excited about shapes. And, it's fun for kids to reverse roles with you, if only for a short time.

# WEEK 1: SHAPES

**The Shape Of A Home (Early Math):** Ask your child to tell you about shapes. How many can your little one think of? Invite them to discover shapes in your home. Their bed is a giant rectangle. The doorknobs are perfect circles. Perhaps there's a special triangle-shaped window in your home. How many shapes can they find in all? How many circles? Would they enjoy snapping some photos of the shapes they find? Drawing them on a piece of paper? For older children, you can begin to talk about the difference between 2D and 3D shapes.

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**ABC Set In Stone (Early Literacy):** Head outside and find some rocks and pebbles. If rocks are not aplenty near you, find some sticks, leaves, acorns, or other natural materials. Invite your child to make letters out of the materials. You can practice saying the sound that each letter makes. Can you spell your name? Your favorite animal? A message to a loved one? If it's too cold or rainy outside, you can do the same thing indoors with cheerios, legos, blocks, marbles - whatever you've got laying around.

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# WEEK 1: SHAPES

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**Playing Catch:** Find an open space, and practice playing catch. Try throwing underarm, overarm, sideways, under your legs, and any other way you can think of. Then, try throwing items besides a traditional ball. Can you spare an oval-shaped egg? What would it be like to throw and catch a wet sponge? A coin? A square pillow?

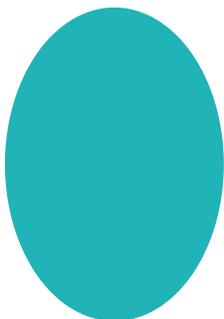
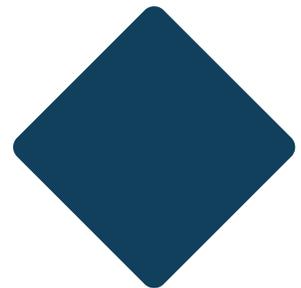
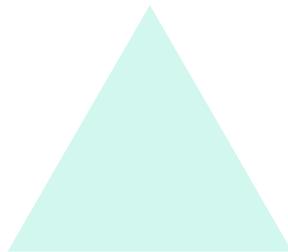
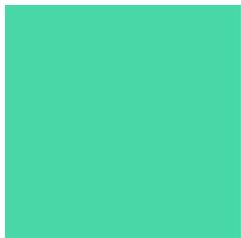
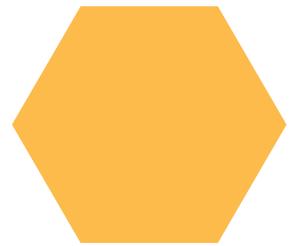
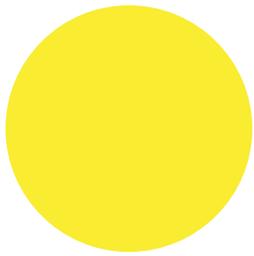
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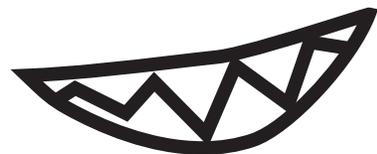
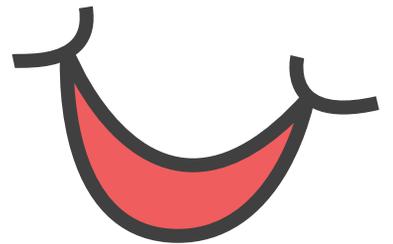
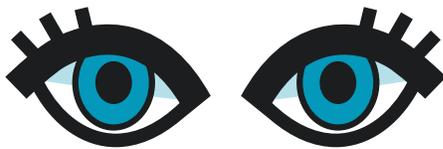
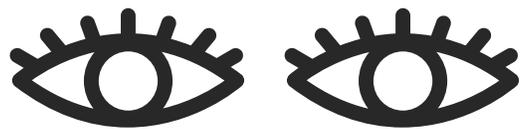
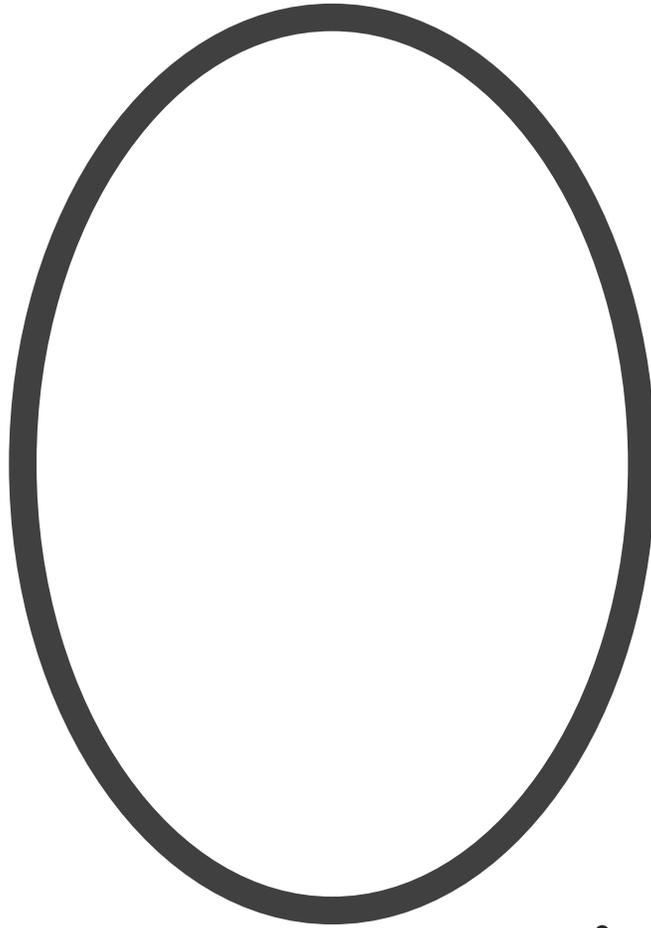
# MEET THE SHAPES!

Meet your new friends! So many possibilities on this simple sheet. Cut 'em out for scissor practice. Trace them and create a puzzle. Print out two copies for a fun matching game. Practice naming and labeling them. Hide them around the house for a shape scavenger hunt. Color faces on them and give them a silly name. (Be sure to say good morning to them each day!)



# MAKE A FACE!

Cut out the face parts and make silly faces. Re-usable fun!



# YOU'RE A STAR!

Grab a mirror and draw a self-portrait. You're a star!

