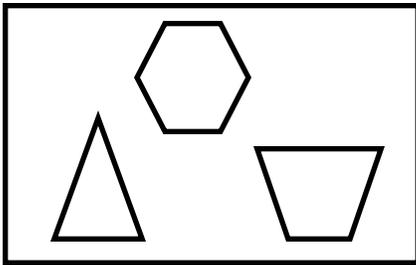


The Greedy Triangle

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- An understanding of shapes and sizes



- Sorting and naming shapes

By three years many children:

- Recognize and name basic shapes
- Notice different sizes and sort objects according to their shape

By six years many children:

- Recognize and name a variety of shapes
- Describe features of shapes, such as, the number of sides
- Make or draw pictures using a combination of shapes

You can help children to:

- Label shapes and talk about their features

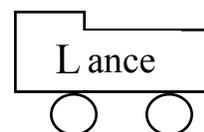
The Greedy Triangle shows children how to identify shapes by their features.



Storytime activities to use with *The Greedy Triangle*:

- As you are reading the book take time to stop and make each shape with your hands.
- Turn the book upside down. Is a triangle still a triangle? Is a pentagon, still a pentagon? This is known as “orientation.”
- Print your name using lower case (small) letters. Draw a shape around it using only straight lines. Every word has a shape. Does your shape remind you of an object?

More math activities for *The Greedy Triangle* are at the back of the book, under “Extending Children’s Learning.”



At Home

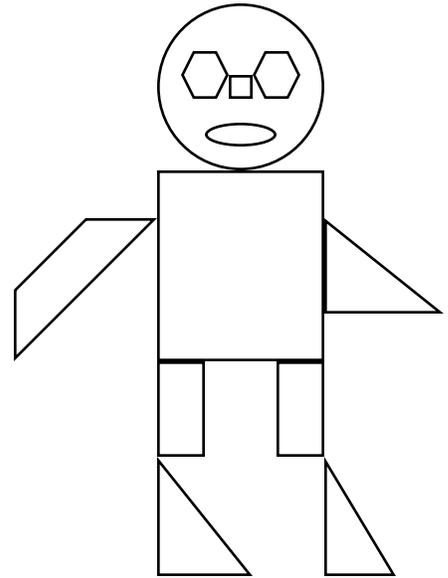
Shape Monster

Shape Monster, Shape Monster
Munch, munch, munch
How about a red circle for your lunch?

Shape Monster, Shape Monster
Munch, munch, munch
How about a green square for your lunch?

Continue with “yellow triangle,” “blue rectangle” and so on.

At mealtime, substitute “red circle” for “red tomato” or “green square” for “green grapes.”



Shape Activities

Find shapes at the breakfast table. What shape is your toast? Look at the cereal box. Do you see any shapes on it? What about your table □ what shape is it?

Take several pieces of spaghetti, break them into different lengths. Put the “sides” together to make different “polygons.” Regular polygons have the same length sides and angles. You can make irregular polygons by making shapes with shorter and longer sides and different angles.

Talk about the features of your shapes by pointing out the sides and angles.

Look for small, medium and large shapes.



Early math:

- 1. Is important to the development of logical thinking*
- 2. Helps children to predict based on their observations*

Five areas of mathematical concepts are called **strands** by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

1. Numbers and numeracy
2. Spatial awareness and geometry
3. Measurement
4. Patterning and algebra
5. Data management and probability



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At Childcare

For Toddlers

- Fill a cookie sheet with sand. Allow children to draw shapes in the sand with their finger or the wrong end of a paint brush. Shake cookie sheet gently back and forth to “erase” the drawings.
- Paint different lengths of string with white glue. Hang to dry. Make polygons with the hardened string.

For Preschoolers

- Ask three children to lie down, head to toe, in the shape of a triangle. Other children stand and look at the shape. Can they identify it? Add one more child. What shape is it now? Continue to add one more child until all children are involved.
- Paint string as above or use spaghetti noodles to make polygons. Letters are shapes too. What letters can you make?



Great books that feature geometry:

Color Zoo, Lois Ehlert

My First Book of Shapes, Eric Carle

Ship Shapes, Stella Blackstone

City Shapes, Susan Baum

Websites that are helpful:

www.mathcats.com/explore/polygons.html

www.enchantedlearning.com/books/howmanyshapes



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