

STEM

starts now

Shape Play

Recommended Age: 16-18 Months

STEM concepts: Science (observing), Math (shapes, sorting), Technology (tools, use of objects)

Materials: Square shaped objects from around the house (such as boxes, books, napkins, etc.), circle shaped objects (such as a roll of tape, plates, lids to jars, etc.), a large piece of paper with a line down the middle

What to do: Go around your house and collect random objects (toys, books, cooking supplies, tools such as rolls of tape, etc that are safe for children to handle) that are either square or circle in shape. Have your child help you draw a square on the right half of the construction paper and a circle on the left half. Have him sort the objects into groups of squares or circles, moving the square shaped objects to the square side of the paper and the same for the circle shaped objects. Once sorted, encourage him to count how many things are in each group. Ask him what you use the different objects for.

Language and Communication: Be sure to emphasize the names of the two shapes and use the word "sort" to explain putting things into different groups. When you ask your child the use of the different objects you've collected, she may give creative or unusual answers. Instead of telling her she is wrong, encourage her to use her creativity! Thinking outside the box is a useful skill to develop early on.

Expand the Activity: To expand this activity, go outside and collect things of different shapes in nature. Bringing the natural world into this activity can lead into discussions on nature and the outside world. You can also introduce the triangle or other simple shapes that can be found in your house. Another way to expand this activity is to provide paper and crayons for your child to draw the different shapes and objects.

