



BEAR IN A SQUARE

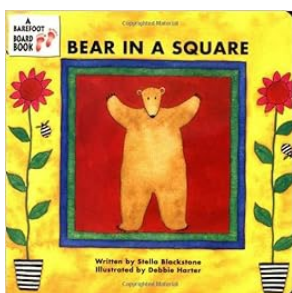
BOOKMARK FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

DID YOU KNOW READING BOOKS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT STEM LEARNING?

Reading with older toddlers and preschoolers uses **PEER**:

- Use additional Prompts if needed,
- Evaluate and
- Expand your child's answers, and
- Repeat the prompts.

ABOUT THIS BOOK



Bear in a Square is a book written by Stella Blackstone and illustrated by Debbie Harter. A bear travels through different places and identifies shapes in this rhyming story. Help your child find shapes in your home and name where you see them.

WHERE CAN I FIND THIS BOOK?

Search [YouTube](#), [BookShare](#), [Archive.org](#), and your local library.

ADAPTATIONS

STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resource/a-guide-to-book-adaptations/>

Scan the QR code to download or view online.



Expanding | Math

Bear in a Square

By Stella Blackstone



Complete a sentence

"You found two hearts in the queen's ____ (hair)!"



Recall

"What shape was the bear in?" (a square)



Open-ended questions

"How did you know how many shapes to look for?"



WH questions

"What objects were made of triangles in the book?" (sails, fins, flags)



Distancing questions

"What are some objects that are a circle?" (plates, clocks, wheels)

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Count
- Numbers
- Shapes





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ADAPTATIONS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested literacy activity. These are only suggested activity adaptations. Consider consulting your child's care team first.



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.

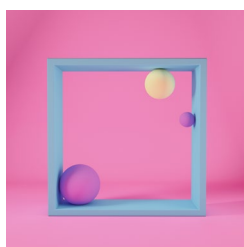


Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.

SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT, DEAF-BLINDNESS, OR MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:



Storybox:

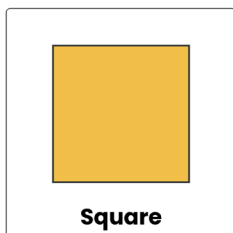
Select corresponding items and place them in a container or a box. Items may include:

- Stuffed bear
- Tangrams (shape toys)

This adaptation can also be used to:

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges

SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:



Pictures, Symbols, Signs, or Icons:

- Select pictures that correspond to items, objects, or animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning

This adaptation can also be used to:

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children's learning
- Support children who are deaf or have a hearing impairment



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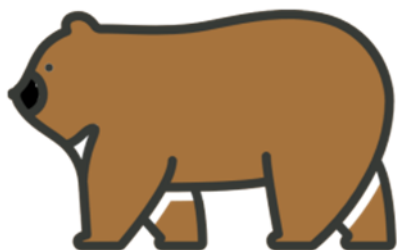
VISUAL CUES FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

How To Use VISUAL CUES:

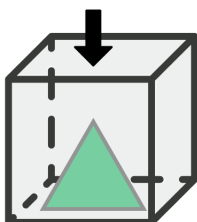
1. Print and cut out the images.
2. As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.

Check out STEMIE's tips for creating and using visual supports with

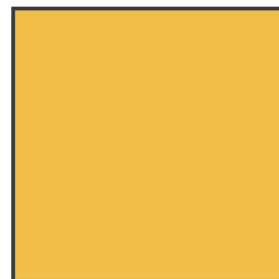
[A Guide to Visual Supports.](#)



Bear



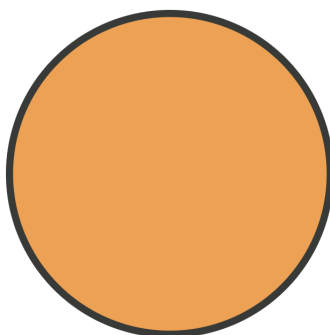
In



Square



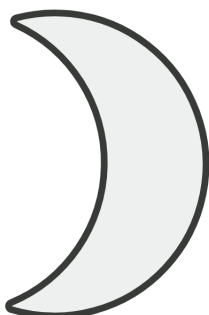
Heart



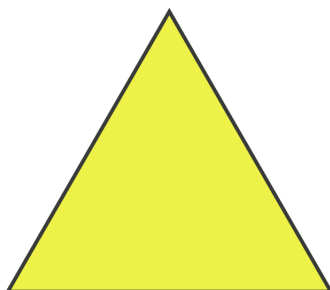
Circle



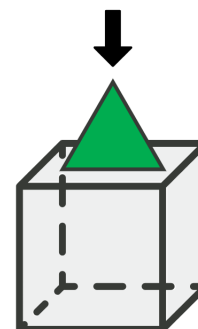
Rectangle



Crescent



Triangle

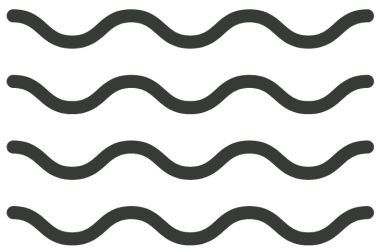


On

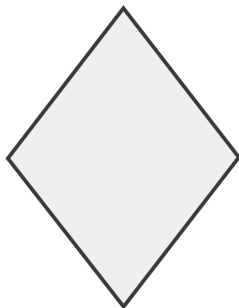


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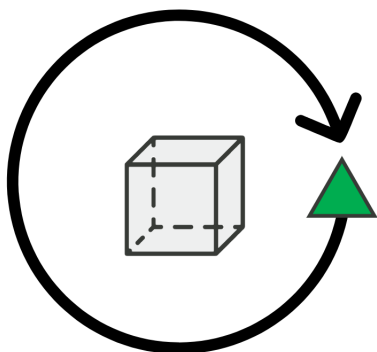
Waves



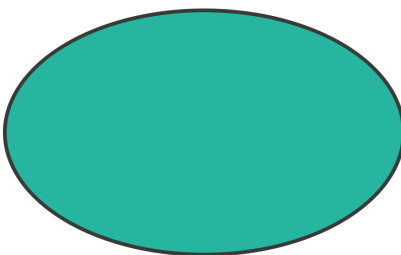
Diamond



Zigzag



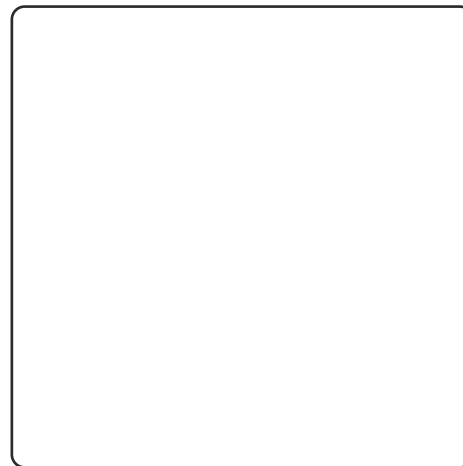
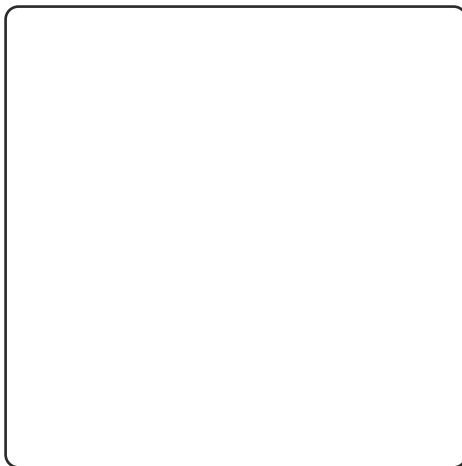
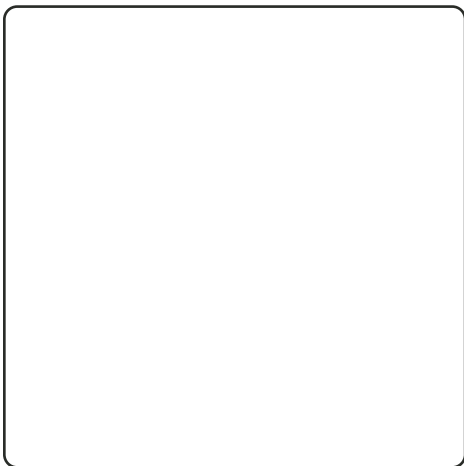
Around



Oval



Star



Need more visual cues?

Use the empty squares above to create your own or visit [STEMIE's Visual Cue Library](https://stemielearningtrajectories.com/visual-cue-library).



BEAR IN A SQUARE

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

SPOTTING AND SORTING SHAPES

Description: Help your child **notice** and **identify shapes**. Label and talk about shapes you notice during your daily routines.

What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences. This helps children develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as math skills.

Provide household items that are different shapes on the floor or table for your child to explore. Allow your child to explore those items in their own way and using different senses. Narrate the actions and experiences as they explore the items. You may say, "What **shape** are you holding?" Build upon the shape exploration and help your child **sort shapes** out by putting **circles together, squares together**. Explore how **shapes** are the **same and different**.

Play a game of *I-Spy* with your child, adding in a rule to say the shape of the object you 'spy'. Go first, so your child has a model of how to incorporate shapes into the game. Begin with simpler shapes then increase the difficulty, just like the author did in the book! Say,

- "I spy, with my little eye, a **big circle**." (clock)
- "Wow, I like how you told me the **shape of the object is a square**. A **square** has **4** sides that are all the **same length**."

BUILDING SHAPE PATTERNS

Description: Help your child recognize that there are **steps or patterns** to daily routines and activities.

What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences. This helps children develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as math skills.

Create a simple AB-AB pattern using two **shapes** such as a **circle** (a) and a **square** (b) in a row. Model duplicating the **pattern** at least three times. Then, ask your child what is **next**? Have your child point to the shape and **copy the pattern**.



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ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

BUILDING SHAPES

Description: Help your child to build **shapes**.

What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences. This helps children develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as math skills.

Making **shapes** in creative ways is a wonderful way to show your child the **properties** or characteristics of **shapes**. Describe and make one shape at a time together. You can make the shape **whole** (using playdough) or just as an **outline** by lining up the objects (popsicle sticks). Then once your child has been introduced to each shape you are working on, have your child make different shapes by themselves. Let the child choose the materials to make the shapes with, such as, Popsicle sticks, string, playdough, toy blocks or logs.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- Make a **shape** book! Create a document or notebook to explore and record shapes your child usually encounters in their daily activities. Help your child "log" all the shapes they notice and **sort** the things by shape in their book.
- You can start exploring why some things are a certain **shape** with your child. We know that balls roll because they are **round**, but blocks are not generally round and do not roll. Problem-solve with your child about why this might be and expand the conversation to other shapes in the environment.

