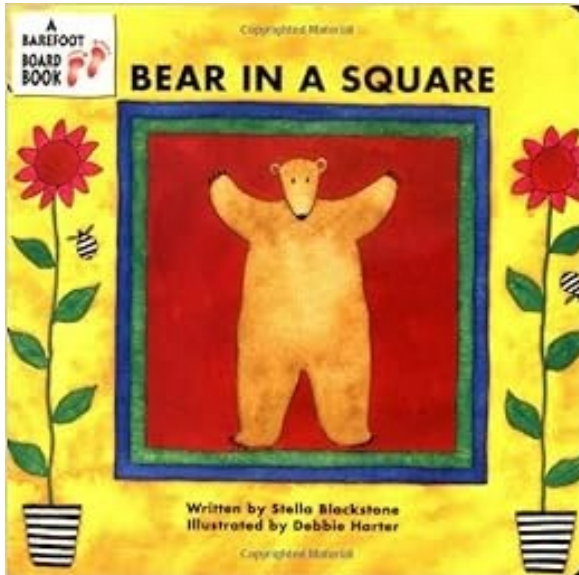




BEAR IN A SQUARE

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's exploration during this literacy activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



Did you know reading books is a great opportunity to support STEM learning?

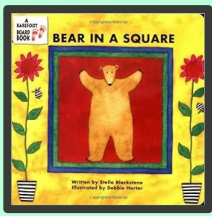
Bear in a Square is a book written by Stella Blackstone and illustrated by Debbie Harter.

In this interactive book, readers are challenged to identify **shapes** the bear character sees at the park, school, and more!

- If you do not have a paper copy of this book, watch a YouTube video of someone reading the book. If you prefer to read it to your child yourself, just mute the audio.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXkTHKpTZsE>

- Check your local library to see if it allows you to borrow a digital version of this book to read on a laptop, tablet, or phone.
- Or find it online: <https://archive.org/details/bearinsquare00blac>



BEAR IN A SQUARE BOOKMARK

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- Print this page and cut around the edges.
- Do not forget to **PEER!** Use **additional Prompts** if needed, **Evaluate** and **Expand** your child's answers, and **Repeat** the prompts.
- Look at STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process and on the following pages:
<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-book-adaptations>
- If you print this page, you can download or view online by scanning the QR code below.



Expanding | Math

Bear in a Square

By Stella Blackstone

C

Complete a sentence

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

R

Recall

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

O

Open-ended questions

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

W

WH questions

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

D

Distancing questions

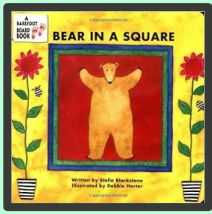
"What are some objects that are a circle?" (i.e., plates, clocks, wheels)

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Counting
- Numbers
- Shapes



stemie.fpg.unc.edu



BEAR IN A SQUARE ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

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SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/DEAF-BLINDNESS/MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

STORYBOX

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

- Teddy bear
- Tangrams (shape toys)
- Toy block (square)
- Cup (rim is a circle)
- Box lid (rectangle)



This adaptation can also...

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



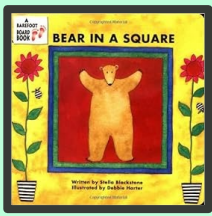
Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



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.



BEAR IN A SQUARE ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

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SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

PICTURES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS, AND/OR ICONS

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

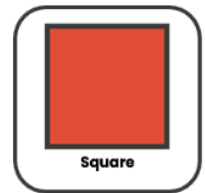


Image Credit: STEMIE

This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children' learning
- Support children who are deaf/with hearing impairment



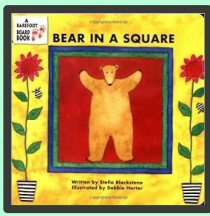
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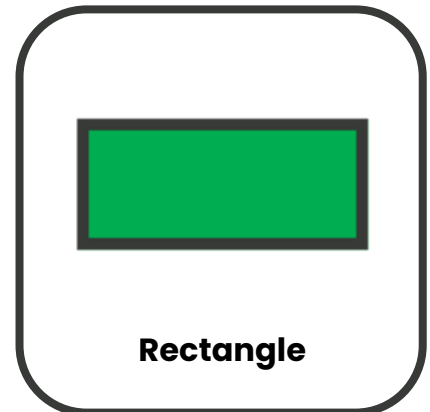
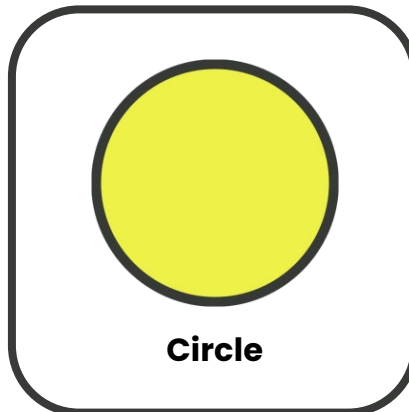
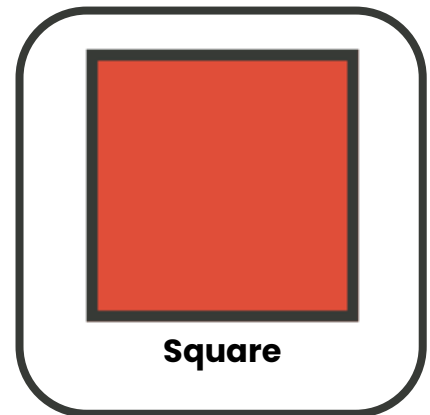
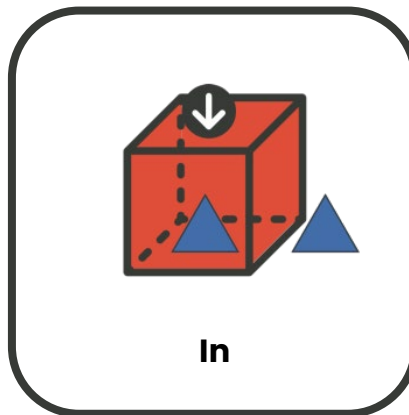
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VISUAL CUES:
USE TO PROMPT

HOW TO:

Step 1: Print and cut out the images. You can also create your own visual cues (empty squares included).

Step 2: As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.



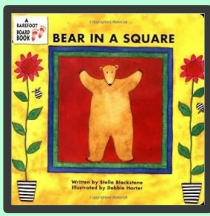
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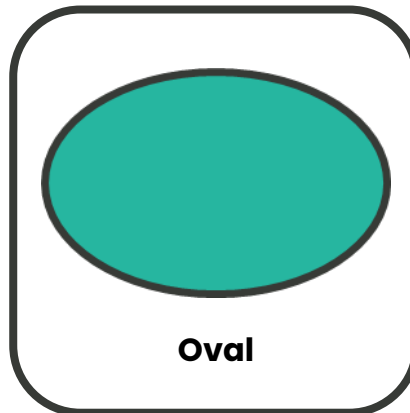
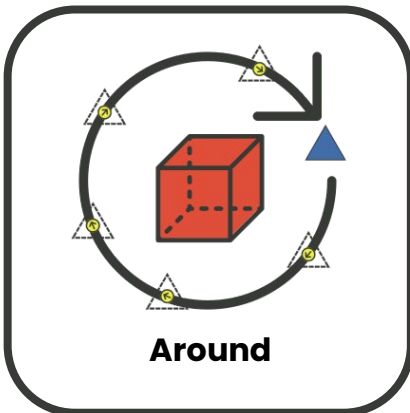
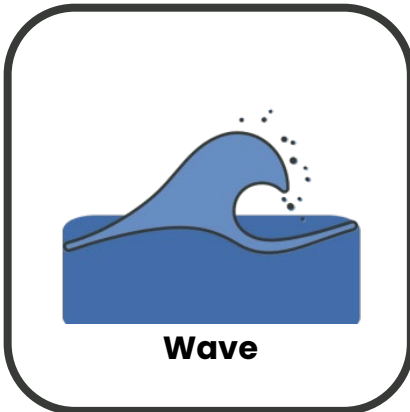
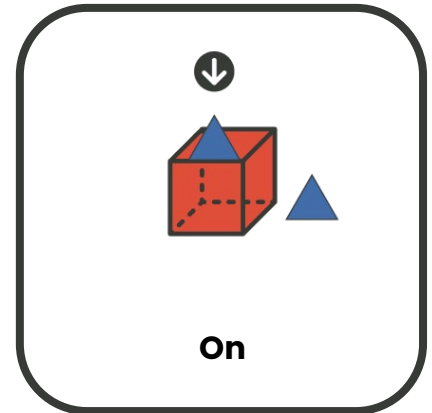
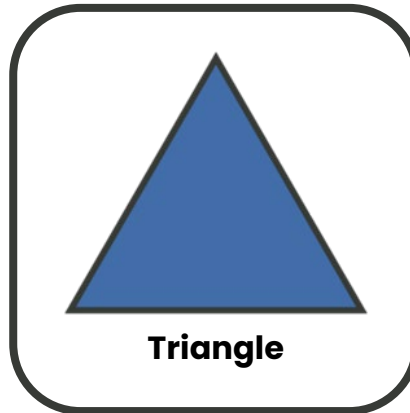
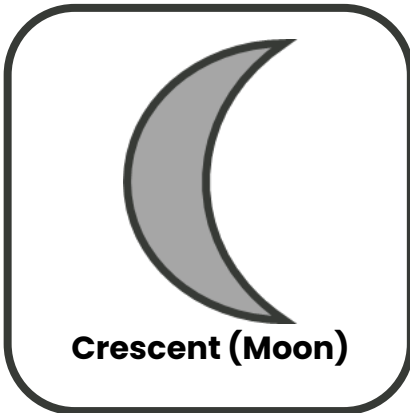
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BEAR IN A SQUARE ADAPTATIONS

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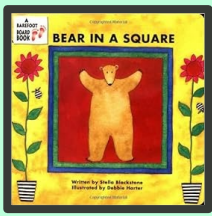
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BEAR IN A SQUARE EXPLORATION I

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

Shape Observer

Description: In your daily routines help your child **identify shapes** they recognize. For example, during bathtime, label the washcloth as a **square/rectangle**, and when playing with balls, point out that the ball is **round**. You can point out shapes in the store too!

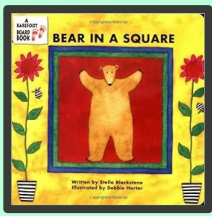
What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to recognize shapes in their daily routines. Help your child make a connection between words and real-life experiences and 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**, etc. 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**."



BEAR IN A SQUARE

EXPLORATION II

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

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Shape Patterner

Description: Help your child recognize that there are **steps or patterns to daily routines and activities**. Provide two shapes and encourage your child to **copy a simple AB pattern**.

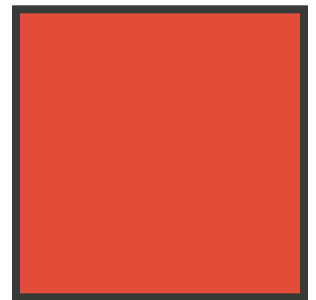
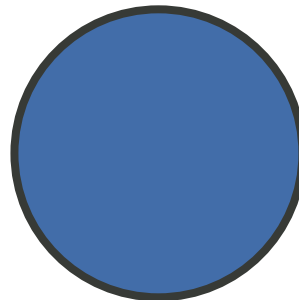
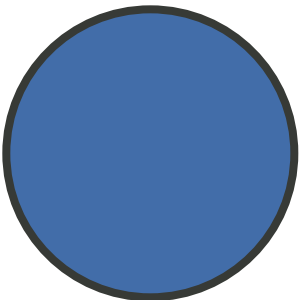
Create a simple AB-AB pattern using two shapes such as a circle (a) and a square (b) in a row. Model duplicating the pattern at least three times. Then, ask your child **what is next?** Have your child point to the shape and copy the pattern.

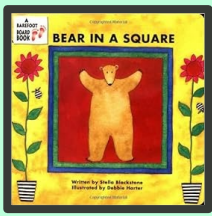
What My Child Is Learning!

Patterns are all around us. Children love to find patterns in their everyday lives. They can **find and notice the patterns** on a striped shirt, zebra skin, or even in songs.

Why is learning patterns so important? **Learning patterns can help children understand logic, make predictions, and solve problems.** These are fundamental skills for later STEM learning and success.

Besides modeling how to create a pattern, you can also use a simple laminated placemat for AB - pattern for communications.





BEAR IN A SQUARE

EXPLORATION III

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

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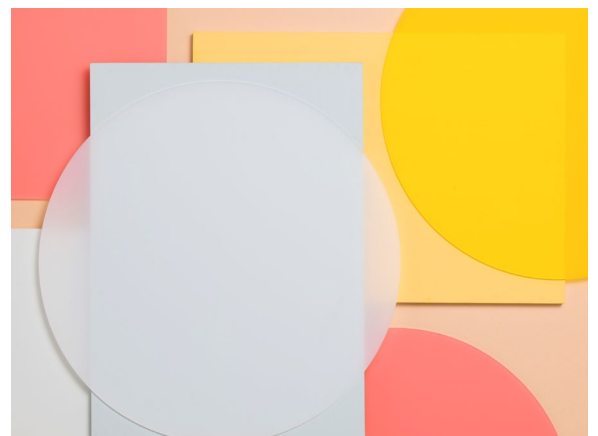
Shaper

Description: Encourage your child to *create shapes*.

What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to recognize shapes in their daily routines. Help your child make a connection between words and real-life experiences and 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 (i.e., using playdough) or just as an outline by lining up the objects (i.e., 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.



BEAR IN A SQUARE



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

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- 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 see and categorize 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.

