

# Shapes

EI-3048  
Ages 3+  
Grades Pre-K+

## Bean Bags

Toss and learn shape fun!

Shapes Bean Bags are a fun, active way to encourage young learners' shape identification skills. Here are several game ideas to get you started.

### Toss and Say

Divide children into pairs or small groups. Give each team a pile of bean bags. Depending on the age and ability of your students, have children stand from three to six (or more) feet from one another. Have the children take turns tossing the bean bags to one another, identifying their bean bag's shape on each toss.

### Bean Bags in Action

Use the bean bags to practice both shape identification and position words. Place the bean bags in a container. Invite children to find a bean bag of a specified shape and place it in a specified position. For example, have a child, "Find the *square* bean bag and place it *behind* your back." Continue with different shape bean bags and different position words: on, under, over, near, right, left, and so on.

### Shape Circles

Draw and label a "shape circle" on the ground for each of the bean bags. Have children take turns tossing bean bags into the appropriate circles and identifying something that is that shape, for example, "Rectangle, door. Oval, bar of soap. Star, starfish."

### "I Spy" Shapes

Place the bean bags in a bag or other container. Have a child reach inside the container without looking and choose a bean bag, for example, the circle. Then have her locate something in the room that has that shape. When she has found something, have her say, "I spy something that is a circle," place the bean bag on her head, shoulder, arm, or any other chosen body part and, while balancing the bean bag, walk over to the object and identify it, "I spy something that is a circle. It's a clock."

### More "I Spy" Shapes

Describe an object in the room that you have "spied." For example, say, "I spy with my little eye, something that is a rectangle. You enter and leave the room through it." The first child that correctly guesses what you are describing (the door) takes the bean bag of the appropriate shape, balances it on his head, hand, or other chosen body part, and walks over to identify the object, "I spy with my little eye, something that is a rectangle. It's the door."

### Scrambled Shapes

Arrange the bean bags in a row. Have the children identify the bean bags by shape from left to right. Rearrange or scramble the bean bags and let children name them in their new shape order. **Variation:** Depending on the age and experience of your students, arrange five or more bean bags in a row. Ask children to close or cover their eyes. Remove one of the bean bags and have children guess which one is missing. As children's visual memory increases, set out more bean bags and remove more than one of them at a time.

### Shape Toss

Make a large shape game board from a plastic shower curtain or tablecloth. Draw grid lines with a permanent marker, dividing the game board into eight sections. Cut out pictures from magazines or have children draw pictures of objects for each shape on large index cards, for example: an egg for an oval, a gift box for a square, a sun for a circle, and so on. Tape the pictures to the game board. Have children take turns tossing the bean bags onto the pictures with corresponding shapes.

**For more active toss and learn fun, look for these additional bean bag sets:**

EI-3045 Alphabet Bean Bags  
EI-3046 Colors Bean Bags  
EI-3047 Number Bean Bags



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