

Shapes and Colors matching game & design patterns























Ideas for using these patterns:

- 1. Red day: Print pages 2-4 on paper or cardstock (or trace the shapes onto posterboard) to use as game boards. Use the stencils or cut out the shapes on pages 2-4 from red paper or cardstock to make a set of red shapes. Have the child match the cut out shapes (as for a puzzle piece) to the shapes on the game boards. Similarly, for the other color days. Each day as you add a color, make rows of the matching color shapes on the game board. That is, in the end you will have a row of circles of all colors, a row of triangles of all colors, and so forth. The color shapes can be shuffled and dealt out. Eventually encourage the child to have all the red shapes in a column, all the yellow shapes in a column, etc., even as the rows are matching shapes—for instance, you may have a row of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, etc. circles; next a row of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, etc. stars; continuing through all the shapes. You may want to limit the number of shapes and colors to work on at first, eventually including black, white, grey, brown, pink, gold, silver . . . Note: you may wish to laminate the boards and shapes, or cover them with clear contact paper to make them more durable.
- 2. Save cardboard from boxes (ie cereal, crackers, etc.) and from packaging (such as clothes, and other items) to make more sturdy stencils. Even 2 and 3 year olds can learn to trace or scribble/color in the shapes from the stencils using markers, pencils, . . . (practice tracing negative stencils, and positive patterns)
- 3. Use the shapes or stencils to experiment with making and predicting patterns of shape and color, such as, red heart, yellow circle, blue square (repeat).
- 4. Use the shapes or stencils to make pictures—such as, a square and a triangle to make a house; a circle for a head and a star as a body for a clown; etc.
- 5. Experiment with making concentric shapes by tracing the inner shape of the stencil, and the outer shape of the stencil, and drawing more outer and inner shapes. Optionally, color them in a pattern, a "target", for example, can be made of concentric circles, every other one colored.
- 6. Decorate the Christmas tree with shapes, by making a loop of thread to hang them (thread a needle, poke it through the top of the shape, and tie it in a loop). You may want to decorate them with glitter, etc.
- 7. Cut up frig magnets sent by advertisers to glue on the back of the shapes, to put them on the frig or other surfaces that will attract a magnet. You may mount pictures of members of the family, each on their own chosen shape.
- 8. Surround the shapes with glass stones, beads, beans/peas, pasta, or other small items as an outline—for tactile practice at noticing the characteristics of each shape. Opt. glue the beans, & remove the shape pattern.
- 9. Put the shapes on a piece of paper and paint over them so that they leave a blank image behind that is not painted. You may need to temporarily tack them so they don't move as they are painted over.
- 10. Use the shapes to make impressions in clay, dough, mud, . . . or use them as patterns to cut your own shape stamps from potatoes, etc. With the stamps you can make your own wrapping paper or cards.
- 11. Cut the shapes from different color fabrics to sew or iron onto quilt or softblock squares.
- 12. Print pages 2-4 and have the child draw the shapes to finish out each row. Opt. color them in a pattern or decorate them as desired.
- 13. Older children: Print and practice with the fractions & tangrams. What other designs can you make by dividing and coloring these shapes? Note the versatility of triangles: every other polygon can be made using triangles, or divided into triangles.
- 14. Older children: Observe and practice with symmetry: How many ways can each shape be folded so that its sides match? (In other words, find all the axes of symmetry). Practice folding and cutting out symmetrical shapes.
- 15. Use these patterns for arts and crafts for holidays, birthdays, rainy days . . .
- 16. Use the shapes to make clown or jack o' lantern faces—3 dimensional, or with colored paper, or sandwich makings.