

This book explores the unique possibilities that can come out of combining animals and shapes. It lends itself to identifying shapes and their properties.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

THINK-MATH



Children will:

- ◆ Begin to name and describe shapes by their properties
- ◆ Recognize and label common shapes

Teachers will:

- ◆ Prompt children to identify shapes and their properties.

TEACHING TIP

Preschoolers are beginning to recognize shapes in everyday objects. We can spark children’s early Geometry skills by pointing out or combining common shapes with objects or topics that children enjoy, like this book does with animals. Beginning to recognize the properties of shapes means that children can start to recognize shapes in non-typical formats. For example, the shapes that make up signs, buildings, or food. Bringing an extra element of fun to skills like shape-learning helps math feel like a relevant and exciting part of everyday life.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Have you ever wondered what shape a cat and a circle would make? Today we are going to read *Animal Shapes* and explore some silly ways to look at shapes and the animals that make them!”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to prompt children to identify the shape.
- ◆ Encourage children to describe the shape’s properties, and provide support as needed.

Prompt Children to Identify Shapes and Their Properties

Read: “...Fly-angle”

Prompt: “The bird’s beak and wings make a shape. Do you see what shape it is? Yes! A triangle.”

Encourage: “What about this shape shows you that it’s a triangle? How is it different from a square? A circle?”

Read: “When two cozy cats meet a - ”

Prompt: “What shape do you see here? Yes! I see a big circle.”

Encourage: “How do you know it’s a circle? Do you see any other circles on this page?”

Read: “When hopping frogs meet an octagon, they become a... hop-togon”

Prompt: “This shape has 8 sides. Can you think of what that shape might be called? It’s a tricky one – it’s called an octagon!”

Encourage: “What else do you notice about this octagon? Yes, all the sides are the same length, and they’re straight.”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “Combining animals into shapes has so many possibilities. We got to see a bird turn into a triangle, and cats turn into a circle. It’s fun to be creative while we explore shapes and animals!”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Encourage children to describe shapes in their learning environment. When outside, prompt children to notice what shapes might be found in natural objects or even animals (e.g., a circular bug, a triangle-shaped tree). When comparing the shapes that children spot, encourage them to notice their properties by asking them how they know a certain shape is that shape. Model noticing the number of sides, edges, straight or curved, and length of shapes that you and children spot.