

Bear in a Square

by Stella Blackstone and Debbie Harter

AGE LEVEL 3–4 years

About the Story

Bear introduces different shapes on each page of the bilingual story, *Bear in a Square*. Whether he's at home or in the park, there are squares, circles, and other shapes hidden in each scene. The number of shapes increases from one to 10, making this a good story to talk about both shapes and numbers.



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Words to learn

SHAPES

square, heart, circle, rectangle, moon, diamond, zigzag, oval, star

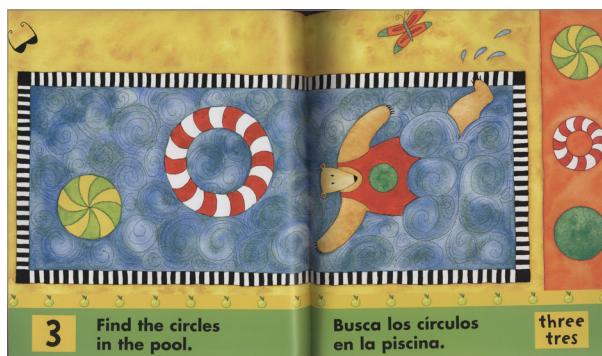
OTHER WORDS

queen, pool, cave, crown, clown

About the Math

When talking about the different shapes, your child can learn:

- Each shape has its own name, such as rectangle, oval, and circle.
- Shapes have specific properties that make them different from other shapes. For example, a rectangle has four sides, but an oval has no sides.
- We can recognize shapes that are of different sizes and in different positions. For example, if we turn a rectangle on its side, or every which way, it's still a rectangle.
- Shapes are all around us!



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Math Talk During Reading

TALK ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SHAPES

How many sides does a square have? What about a star?

NOTICE THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SHAPES

How do you know this is an oval? How is it different from a circle?

TALK ABOUT THE OTHER SHAPES IN THE PICTURE

What other shapes do you see, besides the hearts?

PRACTICE COUNTING THE NUMBER OF SHAPES ON THE PAGE

How many circles can you find?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

FIND SHAPES AROUND THE HOUSE OR ALMOST ANYWHERE ELSE

Let's look around. Do you see any triangles? What do you notice about this one? Why is it a triangle?