

Building Blocks Tips Week 5 – Geometry

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This week children are introduced to the **attributes** of simple shapes – triangle, rectangle and square. We continue identifying small groups (quantities) of numbers with “Snapshots”

Whole Group: Shape Show. When doing “Shape Show” it is important to read the instructions from the book. Remember to use the word “angles”. Refer to your cheat sheet of shape definitions. Do not describe a rectangle as having **two long sides and two short sides** (Parallelograms, kites and trapezoids can also have two long sides and two short sides). A rectangle has “4 straight sides connected and 4 right angles”. Opposite sides of every rectangle are the same length. A square is also a rectangle because it also has 4 straight sides connected, 4 right angles and opposite sides that are equal. It is a “special” rectangle because **all** its sides are the **same length**. You still call it a square. People often ask “Well how do we differentiate between a square and a rectangle if they both have 4 straight sides and 4 right angles”. The **only** difference is that rectangles can have 2 sets of **different length** sides whereas all 4 sides of a square are **always** of equal length.

Small Group (SG) Straw Shapes . Do “Is it or Not” in whole group.

Straw Shapes: Use GeoStix. It might be a good idea to introduce this activity at circle time. Show one shape already made and talk about how many stix it takes to make that shape, then show how to make it. Younger children may have trouble connecting the stix.



Encourage each child to make a shape before playing with the Geostix. Make a few samples to leave on table. Things to look out for: When making a rectangle, sometimes children use two sticks to make the side of the rectangle. Point out that there should be only 4 pieces – one for each side. If there are six pieces it is a hexagon (you will see this if you move the sides)

Computer: Mystery Pictures 1 and 2. * Mystery Pictures 2 – assumes kids know name of shapes. Also uses **Large** and **Small** (may be a good circle time topic. Some kids don’t know these words. They might know Big and little)