Online Virtual KinderPrep activities for Week 3:

Welcome song:
Hello everybody and how are you? How are you? How are you?
Hello everybody and how are you today?
       Other verses: And clap your hands; Stomp your feet; Jump right up; Sit right down

We will be working on shapes today. Kindergarten teachers request that your child can name and identify 3 basics shapes – circle, square, and triangle. They should also be able to trace those shapes. If they learn those 3 shapes, then they say you can add the shapes of rectangle, oval and hexagon next. Children need to learn that the word "trace" means to draw directly over the existing line.

Show each shape and name them. Talk about how a triangle is any shape that has 3 sides. Shapes are important to learn as children learn to recognize the letters by their shapes. Sorting is a beginning math skill. By sorting, children understand that things are alike and different. Sorting also helps children learn to read as they are able to recognize differences in the words. Sort the shapes into circle, square, or triangle piles.

Introduce the letters GHI. Use magnetic capital letters and spread out on white board.   While showing the letter, tell them the name of the letter, show how to write it, and say the sound it makes. Tell them some words that begin with that sound.

Show the letter G and tell them the sound /g/. Say words that start with /g/ such as goat, gum, garbage. Then sing the song: "We're looking for a G, we're looking for a G /g/, /g/, /g/, /g/, We're looking for a G."   Have your child find the letter G. Repeat with H (hand, hop, hiss) and I (inch, igloo, it).

For each workshop there will be 5 activities to do with your child at home.

1) Play Bingo with colors and shapes. Both you and your child should have a bingo card. Pull a card and say what it is without showing it to the other person. If your child cannot find the object then show them the card and have them match the picture. If your child already knows the colors and shapes then have them pull the cards and tell you what it is. You will need bingo cards, calling cards, and small items for bingo markers.

2) Lay the letters A-I on the floor. Toss a beanbag or stuffed animal onto a letter and say the name and sound. For a challenge, say a word that begins with that sound. You will need the printed letters and a soft object.

3) Cut out the pattern blocks. Sort the blocks according to their shape. Count them. Which shape has the most, which has the least? Then make pictures using the blocks while talking about what shapes you are using. There are a couple of ideas that children can match, or create your own pictures. You will need the pattern blocks.

4) Write your child's first name on the paper using a capital letter for the first letter and lowercase letters for the rest. Pour salt onto the cookie sheet. Then have your child write their name in salt   You can write it and then have your child trace it, if needed. You can also practice writing letters or numbers 1 – 5. You will need a cookie sheet, salt, paper, and a pencil.

5) Read a book about shapes such as "Big Box of Shapes" by Wiley Blevins or "Mouse Shapes" by Ellen Walsh. While reading, identify the shapes in the book's pictures.

The handout at the end will give you some ideas of other activities you can do to encourage learning shapes and writing their name.

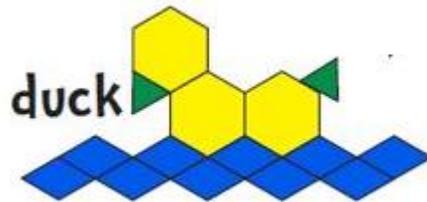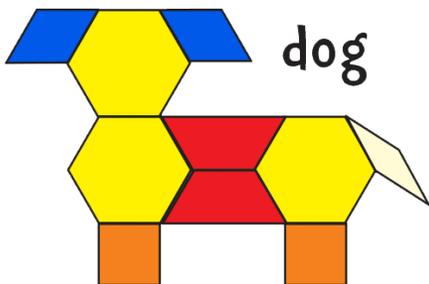Cut one of the bingo cards apart to make the cards to pull.
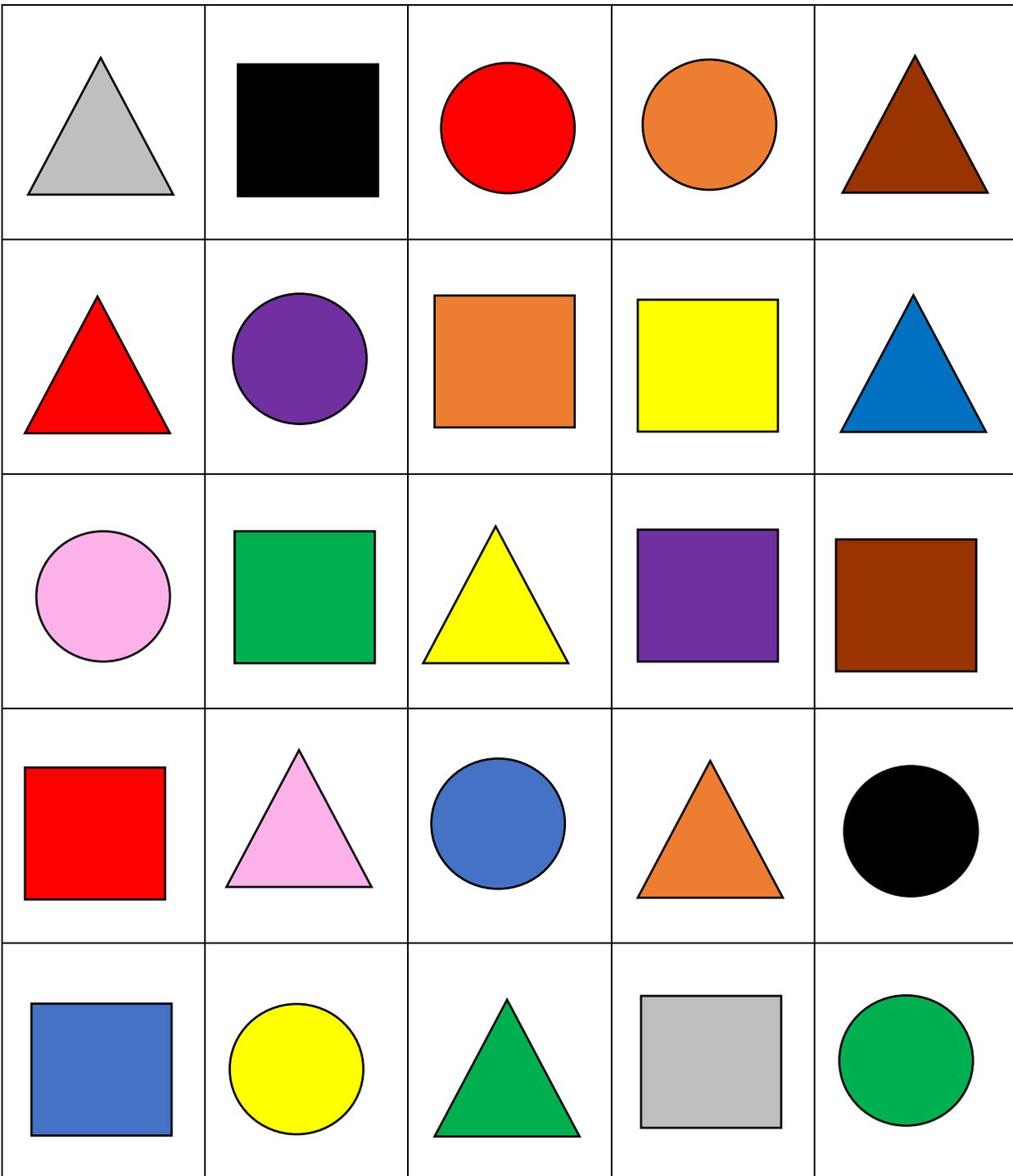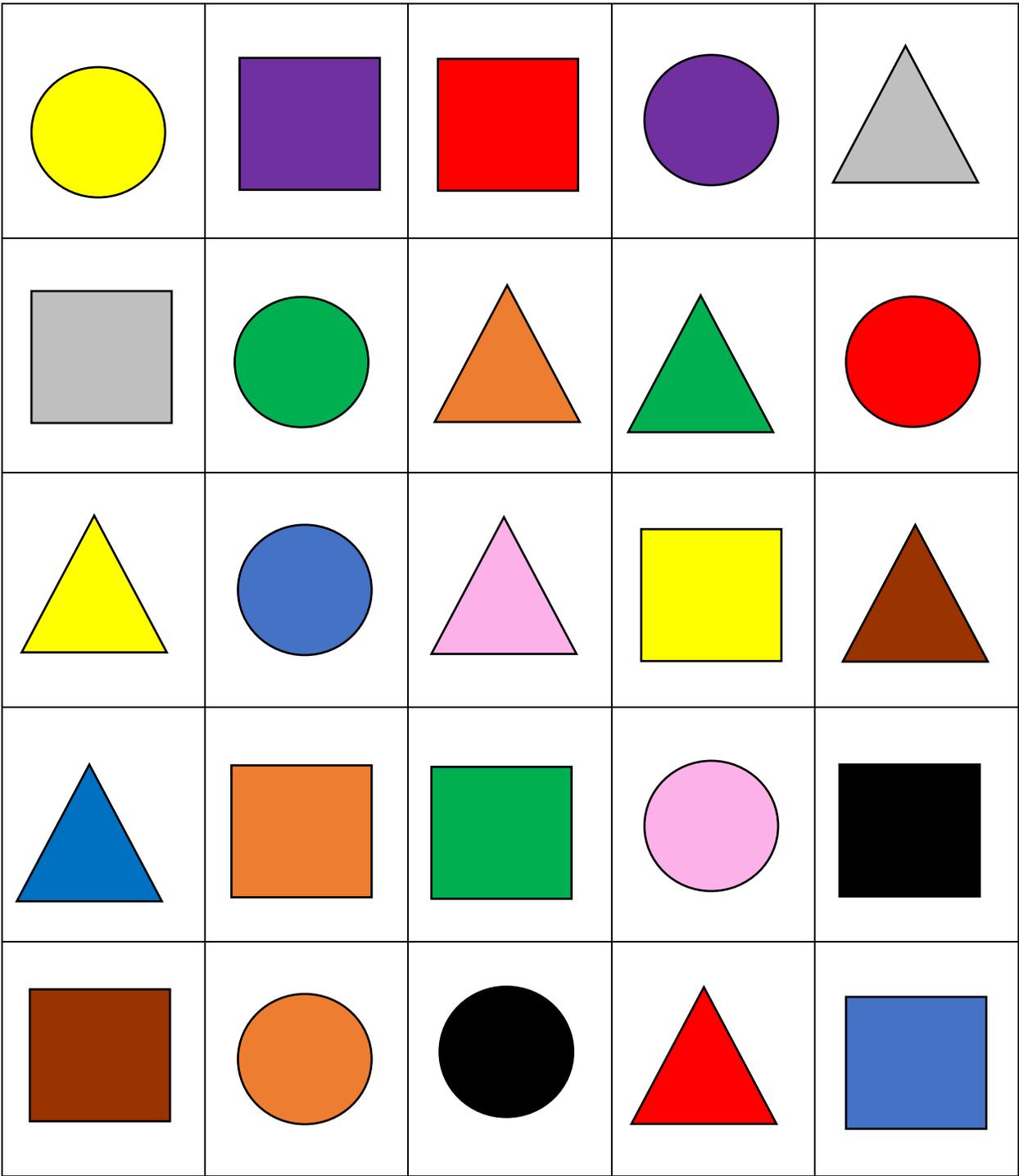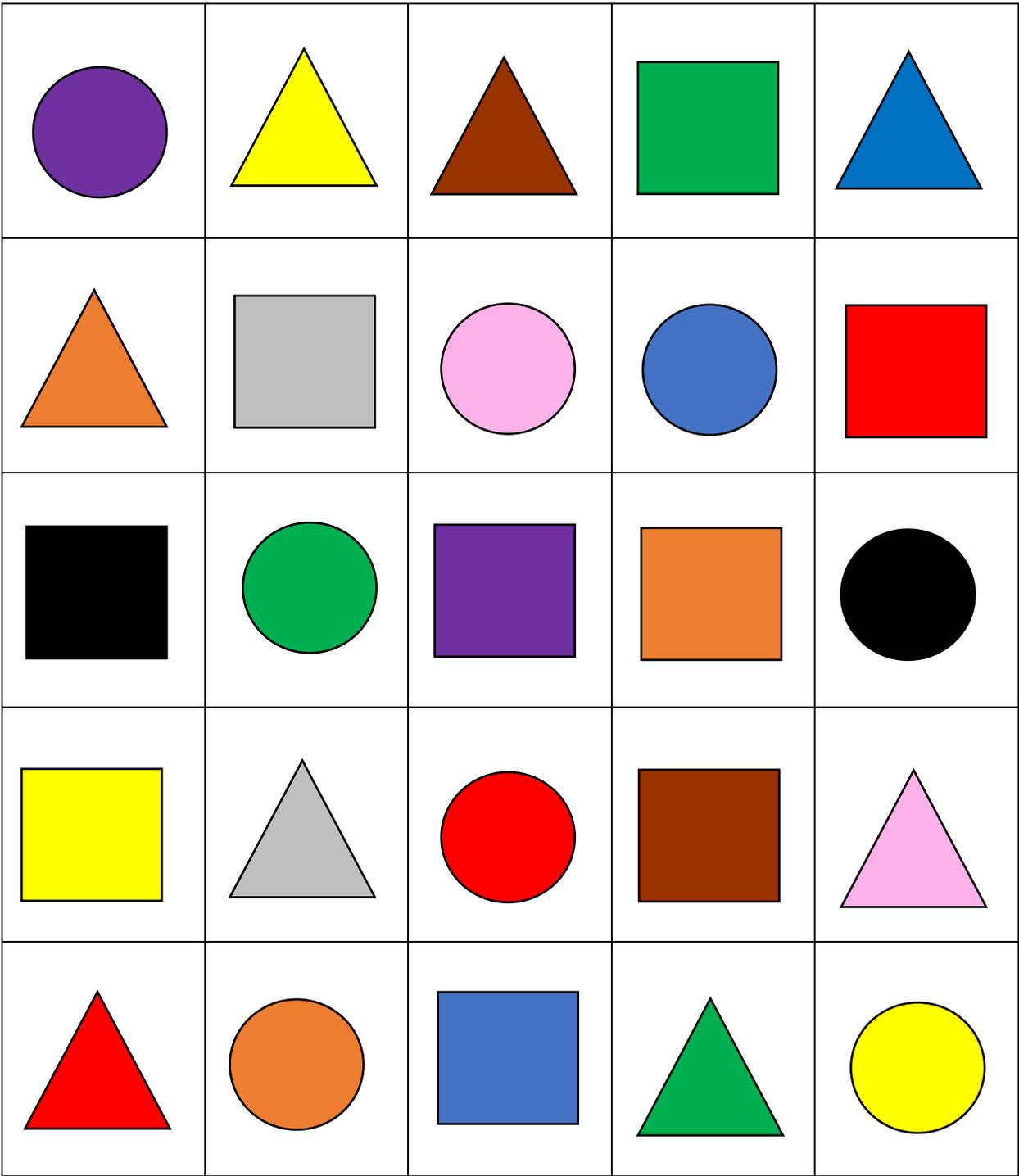
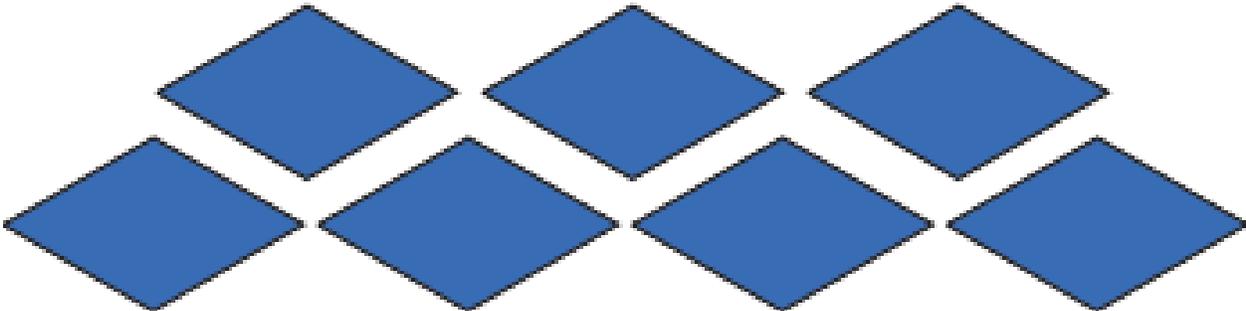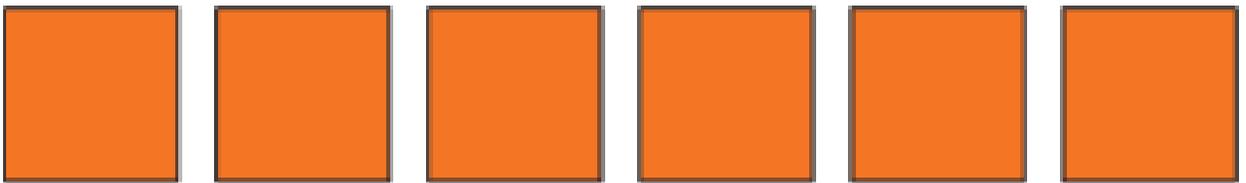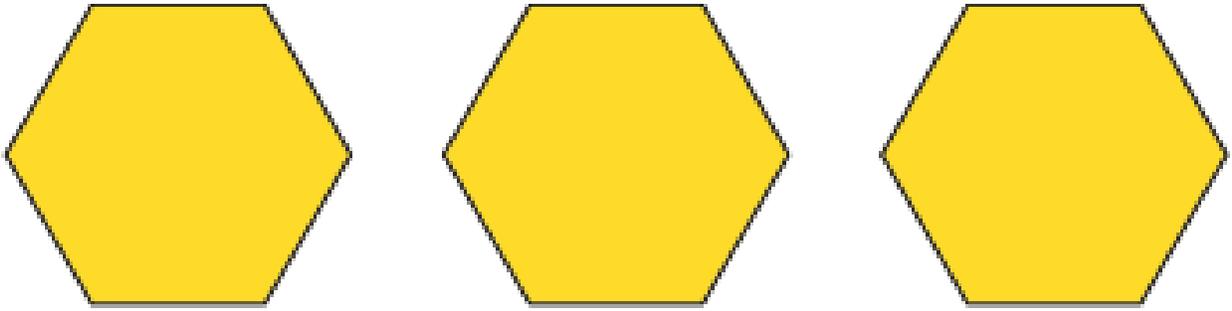| A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

Cut out the pattern blocks. Some examples of pictures you can make are on the bottom of the page.

dog

duck

Shapes

Skill needed: Identify and name basic shapes; circle, square, and triangle. (rectangle, oval, and hexagon are recommended too) Trace basic shapes.

Basic shapes like circles, triangles, and squares are distinctly different from each other. This makes them great for practicing same and different. Same and different is the start of really recognizing distinctive traits objects can have. It is also the first level of categorizing.

One of the biggest reasons to work on shapes early is that shapes help with letter recognition. Think about letters, they are very similar to shapes. The letter V is a triangle missing a side, and the letter O is just a circle. Understanding what shapes are and that they have meaning starts to build literacy. Practicing distinguishing between a square and a triangle help kids recognize between different letters.

Shape Hunt

Have your child point to anything that is triangle shaped, then send them hunting for squares or circles.

Just Talk

The simplest way to work on shapes is just to talk about them. When looking at things, add the shape in the description. "Look at the round moon." "I like the square cracker."

Shape Hokey Pokey

You will need cut outs of the basic shapes. Say the name of a shape before each verse. For example:
Adult says: "Triangle!"
Child(ren) pick(s) up triangle
All sing: "You put your triangle in, you put your triangle out. You put your triangle in and you shake it all about. You do the Hokey Pokey, and you turn yourself around. That's what it's all about!"

Snack Time

Buy crackers or other snack foods that are in different shapes. Have your child identify what shape they are eating.

Make a Shape Book

Have children look for pictures in magazines that are particular shapes, such as a circle, a square, a triangle, etc. Have them cut out the pictures and glue them onto a page with that shape drawn on it. After children have found and glued all the shapes, bind them together into "_____'s Shape Book.

Riddles

Create your own shape riddles. Give clues about a shape such as; It has four sides, two sides are longer and two sides are shorter. Have your child guess what shape it is.

Name

Skills needed: Recite first and last name. Write and spells first name

Name writing is an essential skill in preparing for Kindergarten. A child's name is generally the first word that they write. Lots of pride comes from a child learning to write his or her name.

Before name writing can take place, it is important that children take the first two steps: First, children need to be able to recognize their name. Second, children need to be able to build their name.
Then move on to tracing the whole name and then work on writing their names.

Labels

The more they see their name, the easier it will be for them to recognize it. Write their name on several pieces of paper and put on different places like the refrigerator, a toy box, or on their bedroom wall.

Cornmeal Names

Have the kids use liquid glue to make the letters in their name. For younger children, write the letters of their name on a piece of paper and see if the kids can copy the letters with the liquid glue. Before the glue dries, the children can use a spoon to sprinkle cornmeal over the letters. Dispose of any leftover cornmeal by holding the paper upright and shaking it gently into a garbage can. Allow the cornmeal letters to dry overnight. Invite the kids to trace the cornmeal letters with their fingers for tactile play.

Pudding Names

Make a package on pudding and spread it on a piece of wax paper. Have your child write their name with their finger, small paintbrush, or Q-tip. Smear the pudding around and do it again! Cool Whip is also fun to write in.

Sorting

Skill needed: Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape.

Sorting is a beginning math skill. By sorting, children understand that things are alike and different as well as that they can belong and be organized into certain groups. Getting practice with sorting at an early age is important for numerical concepts and grouping numbers and sets when they're older. This type of thinking starts them on the path of applying logical thinking to objects, mathematical concepts and every day life in general.

More than just shapes and colors

Sort short or tall, sort by size, sort laundry by who it belongs to, sort coins, sort objects by weight.