



## Wooden Shape Puzzle Set

### Here's What You Get!

- 6 Wooden Shape Puzzles
- Teacher's Activity Guide

### Introduction

Research has shown that it takes children a long time to be able to picture shapes correctly in their minds, and even longer to be able to mentally “rotate” them. Working with shapes in a hands-on manner fosters the development of mathematical literacy and also increases eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills.

Prior to understanding mathematical concepts, children must have certain emergent, or pre-math, skills. These skills, including identifying and manipulating shapes, comparing objects with similar attributes and distinguishing similarities and differences, build a solid foundation for more-advanced geometry activities.

### Use the Wooden Shape Puzzle Set to address these Core Standards and Preschool Objectives from PO CET™\*

- Recognizing and manipulating basic shapes
- Exploring the many uses of manipulatives
- Describing several measurable attributes of single objects
- Comparing two objects with a common measurable attribute
- Identifying basic shapes by distinguishing similarities and differences

- Identifying shapes regardless of orientation or size.

\*POCET™ Preschool Observation Checklist and Evaluation Tool is available online at: [www.DiscountSchoolSupply.com](http://www.DiscountSchoolSupply.com)

### Suggested Activities:

- Show one of the Wooden Shape Puzzles to the children. Ask them to describe the shape. Is the shape straight or curvy? How many sides does the shape have? Identify the shape and have the children repeat the name. Remove the shape from the tray and demonstrate how to re-insert it.
- Place two Wooden Shape Puzzles next to each other. How are the shapes the same? How are they different? Discuss the different attributes of each shape. Repeat with more puzzles, ensuring that the children have a firm grasp of the shapes shown before introducing more.
- When the children can comfortably identify a variety of shapes, remove the puzzle pieces from the wooden trays and place them together in a pile. Choose one piece and hold it up for all to see. Ask the children to identify the shape, then have them place it in the correct tray. Continue until all the Wooden Shape Puzzles have been solved.

**Wooden Shape Puzzle Set** (continued)**Extended Activities****What's Missing?**

Remove the puzzle pieces from the trays one-by-one, reviewing the name of each shape with the group as you do so. Place the pieces in a pile and cover them with a cloth or piece of paper. Now, secretly remove one piece from the pile. Lift off the covering and ask the children to identify which shape is missing. As the children become comfortable with this activity, add more shapes, or remove more than one. As the children gain proficiency at identifying the missing shape, ask them to describe it as well.

**Guess My Shape:**

Select a shape puzzle piece and hide it in your hand or behind your back. Describe the shape to the children, but do not mention its name. Can the children identify the shape based on your description? Have the children take turns describing a shape as a means of building vocabulary.

**Art Shapes:**

Use classroom art supplies to further explore the properties of the different shape puzzle pieces. Use pencils to trace around the shapes, then color the drawn shapes with markers, crayons or paint. Create shapes from modeling dough or pipe cleaners. Draw shapes in sand or foam paint. Go outside and use sidewalk chalk to try some life-size shape drawing.

**Shapes and Rhythm:**

Select two or three shape puzzle pieces and assign a rhythm or movement to each. For example, clap hands when the square is held up, turn around when the circle is held up and stomp feet when the triangle is held up. When the children know the movements, hold up and identify a shape and have them perform the assigned movement. Repeat with different shapes and movements. To lengthen the performance, draw the shapes on the board in an extended pattern. Add more shapes and movements as the children become comfortable with this activity.

**Still a Square:**

Remove one puzzle piece and place it on a table. Ask the children to identify the shape. Slide the piece to the other side of the table. Did the shape change? Manipulate the piece by turning, flipping, rotating and standing it on end. Encourage the children to manipulate a puzzle piece of their choosing in a similar fashion. Is the piece still the same shape?