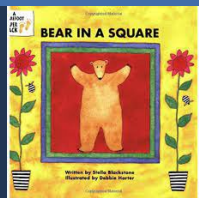# Bookmark with Prompts

Bear in a Square is a book written by Stella Blackstone and illustrated by Debbie Harter.

In this interactive book, readers are challenged to identify and count shapes the bear character sees at the park, school, and more!

Do not forget to PEER! Use additional Prompts if needed, Evaluate and Expand your child's answers, and Repeat the prompts.

If you do not have a paper copy of this book, go to **https://youtu.be/fXkTHKpTZsE** to watch a YouTube video of someone reading the book. If you prefer to read it to your child yourself, just mute the audio.

Check your local library to see if it allows you to borrow a digital version of this book to read on a laptop, tablet, or phone. Or find it online: **https://archive.org/details/bearinsquare00blac**

Look at STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process **https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/sites/stemie.fpg.unc.edu/files/Dialogic%20Reading_General%20Adaptations.pdf**

If you print this page, you can download or view online by scanning the QR code.

Every child is different, and these are only suggested age ranges and activities. Do what works best for your child.

Print this page and cut around the edges.

Ages 2–6	Math

Bear in a Square
By Stella Blackstone

C — Complete a sentence
"You found two hearts in the queen's _ _ _ _ (hair)!"

R — Recall
"What shape was the bear in?" (a square)

O — Open-ended questions
"How did you know how many shapes to look for?" (the side of the page shows them)

W — WH questions
"What objects were made of triangles in the book?" (i.e., sails, fins, flags)

D — Distancing questions
"What are some objects that are a circle?" (i.e., plates, clocks, wheels)

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore
• Shapes
• Counting

STEMIE
INNOVATION FOR INCLUSION IN EARLY EDUCATION
stemie.fpg.unc.edu

STEM Building Activities

Shapes:

Play a game of I-Spy with your child, adding in a rule to say the shape of the object you "spy." Go first, so the child has a model of how to incorporate shapes into the game. Begin with simpler shapes then increase the difficulty, just like the author did in the book!

- "I spy, with my little eye, a big circle." (clock)
- "Wow, I like how you told me the shape of the object is a square. A square has 4 sides that are all the same length."

Making shapes in creative ways is a wonderful way to show your child the properties or characteristics of shapes. First, introduce the activity. Next, describe and make one shape at a time together. You can make the shape whole (i.e., using playdough) or just as an outline by lining up the objects (i.e., popsicle sticks). Then once your child has been introduced to each shape you are working on, have your child make different shapes by themselves. Let the child choose the materials to make the shapes with, such as:

- Popsicle sticks
- Uncooked spaghetti noodles
- String
- Playdough
- Toy blocks or logs
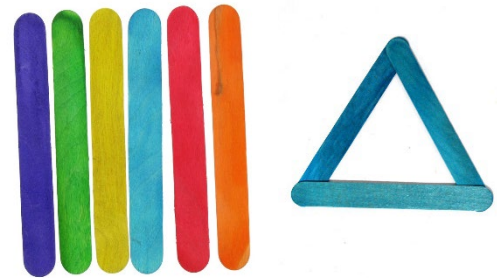
Counting

Make counting an adventure! Counting outside can help develop a child's emerging math skills but also have them interact with nature. Write numbers using sidewalk chalk and have your child find that many items outside! Check out this link for more information:
https://www.scribbledoodleanddraw.com/2012/08/counting-with-objects-from-nature.html.

Count with a countdown! Make a paper chain together and take away one link each day until an exciting date (i.e., a holiday, birthday, or another event)! Remember to count each day to see how many links/days remain. More information is below.
https://familyfocusblog.com/paper-chain-countdowns/

Adaptations:
Bear in a Square

by Stella Blackstone

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations. Do what works best for your child. Your child's therapist can give you other ideas.

SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/DEAF–BLINDNESS/MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

STORY BOX

- Select the corresponding items or tactile symbols and place them in a container or box.
- Items may include teddy bear, tangrams (shape toys), toy block (square), cup (rim is a circle), box lid (rectangle).

Image credit: Canva

This adaptation can also…

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges

SUPPORT ALTERATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

PICTURES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS, and/or ICONS

- Select pictures that correspond to items/objects/animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning

Image credit: Canva

This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children' learning
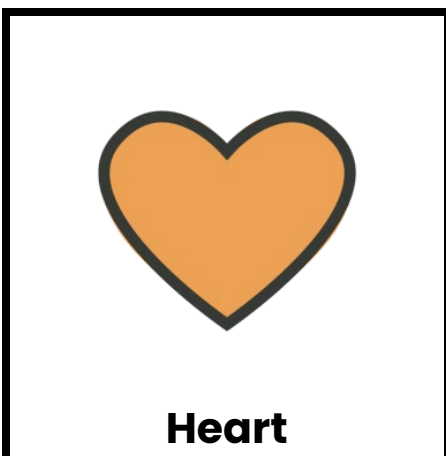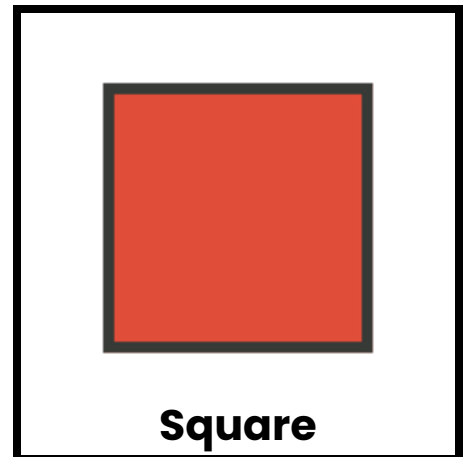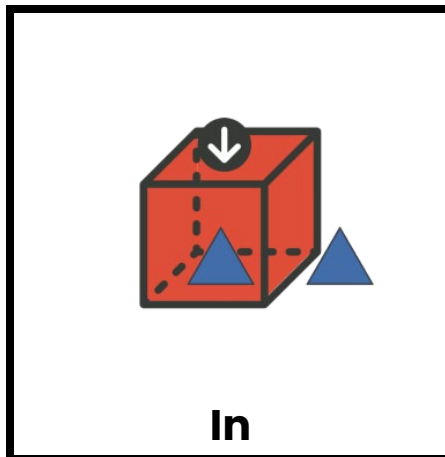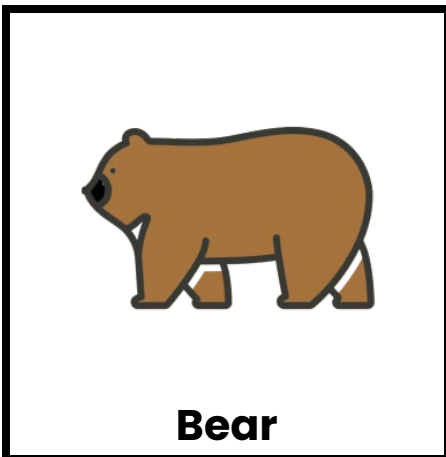- Support children who are deaf/with hearing impairment

Visual Cues:
Bear in a Square

by Stella Blackstone

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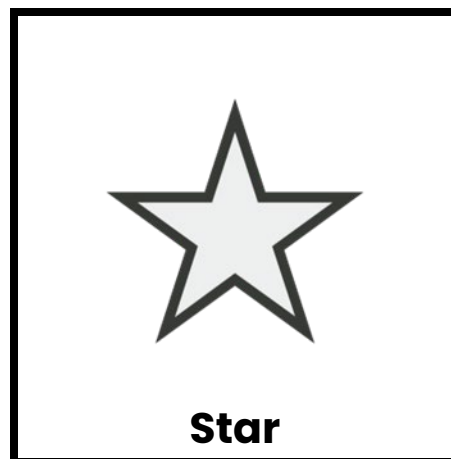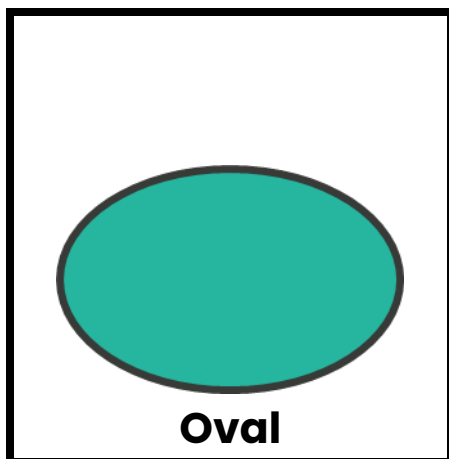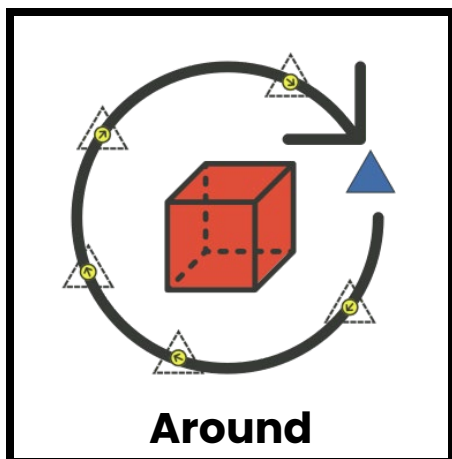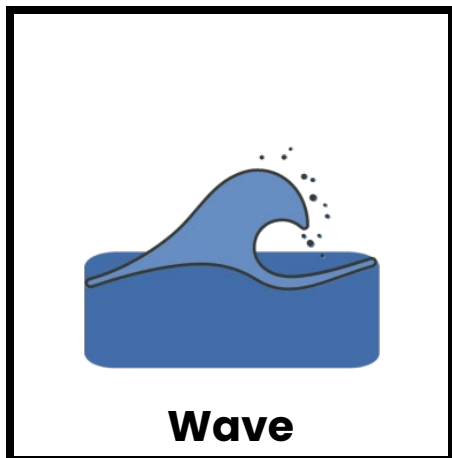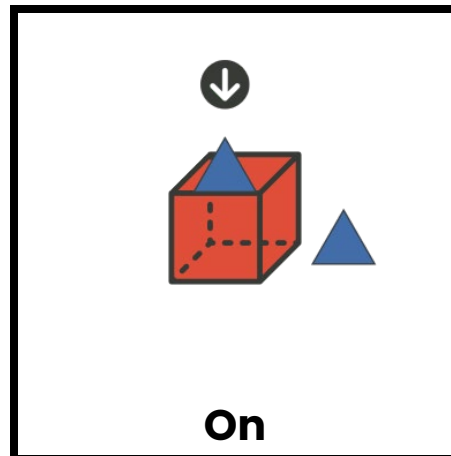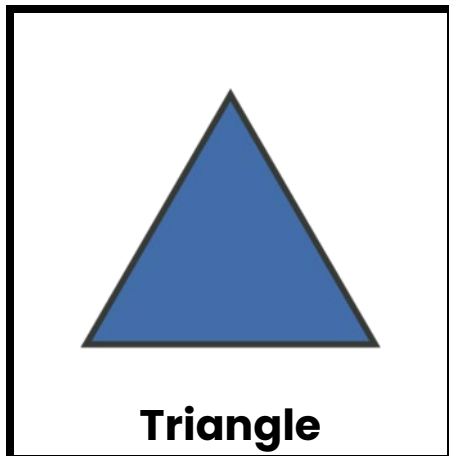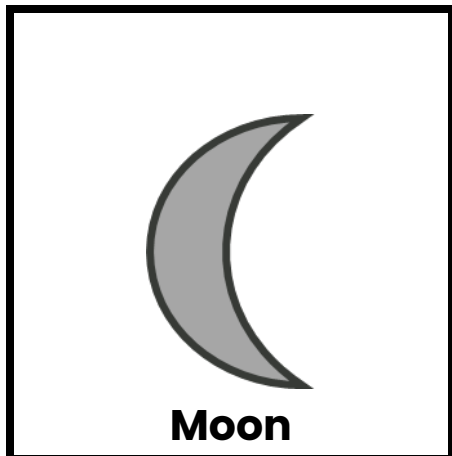
HOW TO:

Step 1: Print and cut out the images. You can also create your own visual cues (empty squares included).

Step 2: As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.

Bear	**In**	**Square**
Heart	**Circle**	**Rectangle**

Visual Cues: *Bear in a Square*

by Stella Blackstone

Moon	**Triangle**	**On**
Wave	**Diamond**	**Zigzag**
Around	**Oval**	**Star**

Visual Cues: *Bear in a Square*

by Stella Blackstone