

# Shapes Beanbags

## Teacher's Guide

EI-3048  
Grades Pre-K+  
Ages 3+

**Shapes Beanbags are a fun, active way to encourage young learners' shape identification skills. Here are several game ideas to get you started.**

### **Toss and Say**

Divide children into pairs or small groups. Give each team a pile of beanbags. Depending on the age and ability of your students, have children stand from three to six (or more) feet from one another. Have the children take turns tossing the beanbags to one another, identifying the shape on each toss.

### **Beanbags in Action**

Use the beanbags to practice both shape identification and position words. Place the beanbags in a container. Invite children to find a beanbag of a specified shape and place it in a specified position. For example, have a child, "Find the *square* beanbag and place it *behind* your back." Continue with different shape beanbags and different position words: on, under, over, near, right, left, and so on.

### **Shape Circles**

Draw and label a "shape circle" on the ground for each of the beanbags. Have children take turns tossing beanbags into the appropriate circles and identifying something that is that shape: for example, "Rectangle, door. Oval, bar of soap. Star, starfish."

### **"I Spy" Shapes**

Place the beanbags in a bag or other container. Have a child reach inside the container without looking and choose a beanbag; for example, the circle. Then, have the child locate something in the room that has that shape. When the child finds something, have him or her say, "I spy something that is a circle," place the beanbag on the head, shoulder, arm, or any other chosen body part and, while balancing the beanbag, walk over to the object and identify it: "I spy something that is a circle. It's a clock."

### **More "I Spy" Shapes**

Describe an object in the room that you have "spied." For example, say, "I spy with my little eye something that is a rectangle. You enter and leave the room through it." The first child that correctly guesses what you are describing (the door) takes the beanbag of the appropriate shape, balances it on his or her head, hand, or other chosen body part, and walks over to identify the object: "I spy with my little eye something that is a rectangle. It's the door."

## Scrambled Shapes

Arrange the beanbags in a row. Have the children identify the beanbags by shape from left to right. Rearrange or scramble the beanbags and let children name them in their new shape order. **Variation:** Depending on the age and experience of your students, arrange five or more beanbags in a row. Ask children to close or cover their eyes. Remove one of the beanbags and have children guess which one is missing. As children's visual memory increases, set out more beanbags and remove more than one of them at a time.

## Shape Toss

Make a large shape game board from a plastic shower curtain or tablecloth. Draw grid lines with a permanent marker, dividing the game board into eight sections. Cut out pictures from magazines or have children draw pictures of objects for each shape on large index cards; for example: an egg for an oval, a gift box for a square, a sun for a circle, and so on. Tape the pictures to the game board. Have children take turns tossing the beanbags onto the pictures with corresponding shapes.

**For more active toss-and-learn fun, look for these additional beanbag sets:**

EI-3044 Phonics Beanbags

EI-3045 Alphabet Beanbags

EI-3046 Colors Beanbags

EI-3047 Number Beanbags

EI-3049 Teachable Touchables™ Texture Squares

