

# Storytime Activity Guide

## *Bear in a Square*

written by Stella Blackstone and illustrated by Debbie Harter

Bear introduces different shapes on each page of this story. Whether he's at home or in the park, there are squares, circles, and other shapes hidden in each scene.

### Did you know?

A good foundation in **early math** prepares children for “math thinking,” and for later academic success. Early Math includes number sense, classifications and patterning, measurement, mathematical reasoning, and geometry (shapes). While reading *Bear in a Square*, practice counting together, pointing out numbers in print, identifying shapes, and using relational language (bigger, smaller, close, far) to develop your child’s early math skills.



### Words to Practice

Square  
Circle  
Heart  
Diamond  
Oval  
Zigzag

### Talk about it!

- How many sides does a square have?
- How many sides does a star have?
- How many circles can you find?
- Let's look around. Do you see any triangles? What do you notice about this one? Why is it a triangle?

### Find More Online

Scan this QR code for a Read Aloud of this book and more free resources.



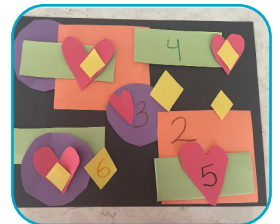
[qrco.de/BearinSquare](http://qrco.de/BearinSquare)

## Create!

Use various shapes to create different pictures.

- Materials needed:**
- Construction Paper
  - Scissors
  - Glue
  - Pencil or crayons

1. Let your child choose a few different pieces of color construction papers. Let them choose which color will be the background. In this example, we chose the black sheet to be our canvas.
2. Use the other colorful construction paper to help your child cut out different shapes. They can be shapes in the same color or different color.
3. Help your child place all these shapes on their canvas. Let them place them any way they like, but make sure that you use words like "below," "above," "middle," etc. to describe the placement they chose. In this example, we might say "you put the yellow diamond on top of the purple circle, and you put the heart in the middle of the green rectangle."
4. Shuffle all the pieces and let your child organize them in a different way. Talk about it if they choose to use "more" or "less" shapes than before. Also, talk to them about the relative sizes of the shapes they choose.
5. For this second design help your child use glue to paste the pieces to the canvas. Then, count each shape and write its number on one of the pieces.



### Play: Shapes in Your Neighborhood

On your next walk around the neighborhood, or your next car ride, try to point out 5 shapes in your environment. For example, a yield sign is a triangle, a billboard is a rectangle, and the moon is a circle. As you practice this activity with your children you can add more shapes (ex: Stop Sign is an Octagon). See how many shapes you can find in a week.

