

COLOR, SHAPE, AND SIZE



Dear Families,

The world is filled with amazing colors and shapes of all sizes. Over the next several weeks, children will be noticing and labeling the colors, shapes, and sizes of things around them. They will learn to sort and categorize objects by these attributes. Don't be surprised when your child points to an object and describes it by its color, shape, and size: *That button is a small, red circle!*

Week 1: Color • Week 2: Shape
Week 3: Size • Week 4: Multiple Attributes

GREETING CIRCLE

Each morning as children meet in the Greeting Circle, they connect as a school family. Fernando the Frog, a friendly puppet, leads the children in wishing absent friends well and welcoming back returning friends. Every day, children commit to keeping the classroom safe by using walking feet, listening ears, gentle hands, helping hands, a big voice, and sharing. When children are spotted keeping one of these commitments, the example is written on a heart and posted on the class Kindness Tree.

LITERACY

Week 1: Color

Word of the Week: primary colors
 Focus Letters: R, r, U, u
 Read-Aloud Time: Finding Colors with Fernando
 Kate the Chameleon

Week 2: Shape

Word of the Week: star
 Focus Letters: L, l, S, s
 Read-Aloud Time: Finding Shapes with Fernando
 Coletta's Cookies

Week 3: Size

Word of the Week: gigantic
 Focus Letters: B, b, T, t
 Read-Aloud Time: The Three Bears' Vacation
 The Enormous Turnip
 It's Not Easy Being a Troll

Week 4: Multiple Attributes

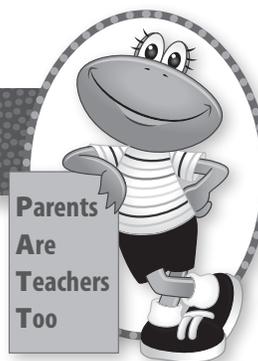
Word of the Week: classification
 Focus Letters: D, d, W, w
 Read-Aloud Time: Jasper's New Bed
 Helping Grandma and Grandpa

MATH

Children will begin sorting (classifying) objects by a single attribute. In Week 1, they will sort by color. In Week 2, they will sort by shape. In Week 3, they will sort by size. In the final week of this unit, children will sort by multiple attributes ("Find all the triangles that are red.") and discover various ways to sort a collection of objects.



- ★ Doing laundry is a great time to practice sorting at home. Ask your child to sort socks by color or shirts by size. Ask your child: *What categories can we use to sort this pile of towels and washcloths?*
- ★ Invite your child to help sort tableware as you remove it from the dishwasher. Have your child place all the butter knives, forks, and spoons in their proper place in the utensil drawer.
- ★ Enjoy thinking of additional ways to practice sorting at home.



THEME 3: PATT Mat

LITERACY

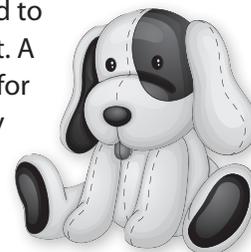
Point out words to your child that mean *large* (huge, gigantic, enormous, massive, giant, colossal). You may hear the words or see them in a book or at the supermarket. Use these **BIG** words with your child and encourage your child to use



 the words too. Another time, notice and use words you hear that mean *small* (little, miniature, tiny, wee, miniscule, petite).

MATH

Your child's toy box or shelf is a great resource for practicing math! Place several stuffed animals on the floor. Invite your child to sort the animals by size. Then encourage your child to find a set of toys for you to sort. A tub of building blocks is great for sorting shapes. The vocabulary words you use as you sort are important for language development too!



CALMING STRATEGY

Encourage your child to take a big, deep breath. As he breathes in, have him make himself big by swinging his arms up and standing tall on his toes. As he exhales, have him make himself small by swinging his arms back down and squatting.



OUTDOORS

Challenge your child to find an object using clues that describe multiple attributes. For example, you might say: *Find something that is small and green.* or *Let's look for something that is gigantic and brown.* Try this challenge as you walk, drive, or just relax in the yard.



STEAM CONNECTION (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

What shapes roll? Gather a set of household objects in different shapes. Gather some cylinders (soup cans, jars, oat containers) and some small boxes. Place a cutting board or a cookie sheet at an angle to form a ramp or inclined plane. Invite your child to experiment to see which objects roll down the ramp. Talk with your child about which shapes roll and which shapes slide.





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COLOR HUNT

We have been learning about color this week. Go on a color hunt as you drive or walk home from school. Choose a different color each day, and see how many things you can find. It might be fun to keep track of how many things you find of each color. What is the most popular color in your neighborhood?



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SHAPE HUNT

We have been learning about shapes this week. Hunt for shapes on your way home from school. On different days, make a game of spotting circles, flowers, hearts, rectangles, squares, stars, or triangles. Ask your child to name her favorite shape.



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THAT'S ENORMOUS!

We have been learning about size this week. Is there something **enormous** you pass by on your way to school? Perhaps you see a tree, a building, or maybe a moving van. Be on the lookout for something enormous, and please let us know what you find.



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GROCERY SORT

Sorting groceries is a great way to practice categorizing. Invite your child to help you sort as you unpack your groceries. Your child can separate all of the items that go in the refrigerator or make a pile of everything that comes from the store in a box.



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TOY SORT

Enjoy a toy-sorting activity. Sit on the floor or bed with your child and a small pile of toys. Work together to organize them by color, shape, or size.



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