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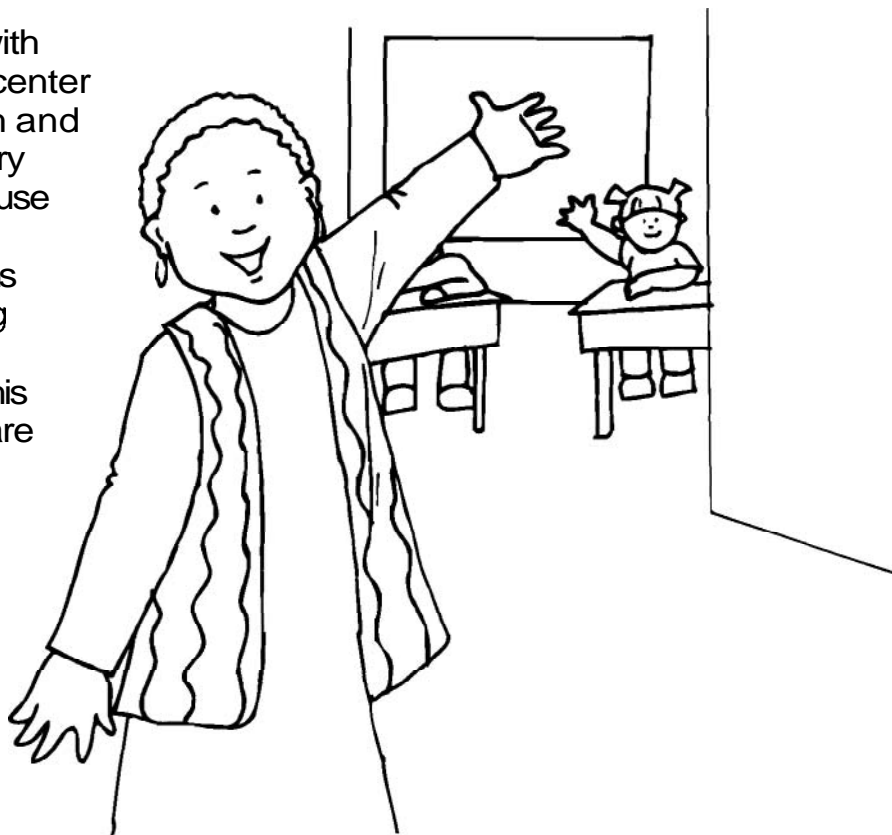
# Introduction

This book is one of two in a series that addresses the importance of exposing our youngest children to key mathematical ideas. The preschool and kinder years are a period of astounding growth, and children's success during this time sets the stage for their elementary school years to follow. Early learning experts have noted that differences in mathematics performance among three to six year olds are not merely a result of their cognitive nature. In most cases, they are believed to be a consequence of the young child's environment. Clearly, the nurture element is critical. Teachers are blessed and burdened with the responsibility of preparing a classroom that can feed their children's curiosity, give them time to make sense of their discoveries, and challenge them to try new things. This is no simple task!

This book is for you, an early childhood educator. It is filled with scripted lessons, activities, and center ideas that will surely provide rich and meaningful experiences for every student in your classroom. Because preschoolers come from vastly different backgrounds, all lessons include suggestions for adjusting activities to meet these varied needs. The lessons throughout this book introduce concepts that are appropriate for the preschool child, as recommended by NAEYC, the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework, and the NCTM Standards. Each chapter focuses on a content category and begins with a research-based description of what you can expect to

observe in the classroom. Developmental levels and common misconceptions among early learners are described to remind you of what to look for as you work with your children. Everyone wins when a teacher can match a child's readiness level with just the right kind of experiences—this book will help you do just that!

The last several pages of this book contain incentive charts so that your children can keep track of their progress. They are categorized by topics: Number, Graphing, Sorting Patterns, and Measuring. Your children will enjoy filling their charts with stickers each time they complete a task—and you will have a record of your children's accomplishments, as well.



# I Spy A Shape!

Whole Class **Activity**

Children love to play "I Spy!" For extra fun, the activity sheets can be done at school or home.

## FOCUS

Identifying shapes in everyday surroundings

Finding "hidden" shapes in pictures

### Materials

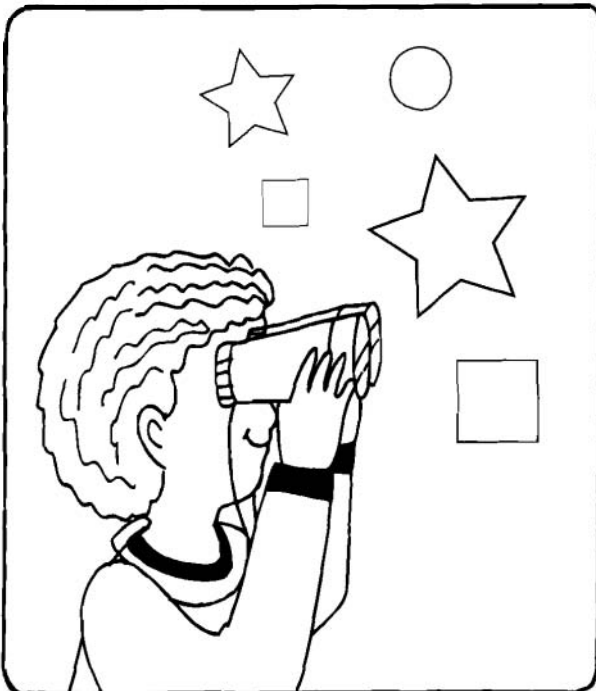
- ✓ none for the "I Spy!" game
- ✓ Activity Sheets 60-62 for more practice

## Directions

1. Explain how to play "I Spy!" Say, for example, **I spy a rectangle**. Tell the class to look around the room for objects that have a rectangle shape, such as a table, desk, window, or door. When the "spied" object is named, examine it to verify that, yes, it does have a rectangle shape.
2. The child who names the object in the classroom has the next turn. It may be necessary for children to name clues if, after five guesses, the object isn't identified. Children may need your help with this, or you can just enjoy their creativity.

## Extra Practice

Children can practice identifying shapes that are hidden in pictures. Decide on a color for each shape and help children color in the "Directions" part of their paper. Or, let them independently complete the "Directions," using color choices of their own, if they are able.



# Certificates for Stickers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a Colossal Counter!

How Many in a Handful?

Counting Cards

Class Counting Big Book

Rainbow Numbers

Match Game

Number Tracing Book

Penny Pass

Counter Race

Action . . . 1, 2, 3!

Count and Check

Mixed-Up Hopscotch

Jewel Count

Count, Flip, and Check

Fixin' the Floor!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a Shape Sleuth!

I Spy A Shape!

Try to Make a Triangle!

Shape Book

Shape Collage



Name \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a Super Sorter!

Shape Sort

Sorting Extravaganza

More of the Same Sort

Sort and Count