



# Kindergarten Readiness

## Home Activity Series

### February 2021 Activities

#### Activity #1: Exploring Shapes with Wax Yarn Sticks

A bag with four wax yarn sticks has been included in your packet. The yarn sticks are covered with food grade, non-toxic wax, which makes them stiff but flexible. The wax is slightly tacky, so the sticks will cling to surfaces as well as each other, allowing children to form and reform many flat and three-dimensional shapes. These sticks are excellent tools for developing fine motor skills as well as providing hours of creative fun. If you are interested in purchasing large sets of them, they are marketed under the brand name Wikki Stix and can be found at many craft stores and online retailers.

Go to [www.smfpl.org/kindergarten](http://www.smfpl.org/kindergarten) for a video demonstration of this activity.

#### Materials needed:

Bag of wax yarn sticks and shape card

#### Directions for parents:

1. Allow your child to handle the wax yarn sticks and explore their texture.
2. Show your child the "Shapes" card. First, point to each shape and see if your child can name each color. Then, point to each shape and see if your child can name the shape. If not, that's fine – this is a learning opportunity. As you or your child name each shape, point to the shape's name below it.
3. Discuss the shapes:
  - a. The circle and the oval are very similar. Can your child describe how they are different from each other?
  - b. How many sides does the triangle have? How many sides do the other straight-sided shapes have?
  - c. The rectangle and the square are very similar. Can your child describe how they are different from each other? Use one of your wax yarn sticks to measure the sides of the rectangle and the square to discover that all the sides of the square are the same length, but all the sides of the rectangle are not.
  - d. The diamond shape is also called a rhombus. Be sure to use both terms with your child; rhombus is the geometry term, but diamond is used very commonly, so your child should be familiar with both. The rhombus and the square are very similar. Can your child describe how they are different from each other? Use one of your wax yarn sticks to measure the distance between the opposite points of the rhombus to discover that they aren't the same. Do the same for the square. What did you discover?
4. Encourage your child to use the wax yarn sticks to outline the shapes on the card. It will take more than one stick to outline each shape and will require overlapping. Have fun!



#### Why we do this:

Using wax yarn sticks helps develop the eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills that will be needed for writing and many other tasks that require finger dexterity.

Children entering kindergarten are expected to be able to recognize and name basic shapes.

Discussing, comparing and measuring shapes is a basic math activity.



## Activity #2: Uppercase and Lowercase letters

### Materials needed:

Pencil, Uppercase and Lowercase Letters N to Z worksheet

### Directions for parents:

1. With your child, look at the “Uppercase and Lowercase Letters N to Z” worksheet (the A through M worksheet was in last month’s packet). Point to the capital letters on the left side of each mitten and ask your child to name each letter. It’s okay if they don’t recognize each one – this is a learning opportunity. Explain to your child that each letter of the alphabet is written in two ways. There are uppercase and lowercase letters. Sometimes the two kinds of letters look very much alike and sometimes they don’t. Uppercase letters are usually at the front of name words, such as your child’s own first and last name.
2. Tell your child to draw a line with the pencil from each uppercase letter to its matching lowercase letter. It’s fine if you have to show your child which letter is the match. If naming and matching these letters is a challenge for your child, you may want to duplicate this sheet and have them practice this multiple times until it becomes easier. This worksheet can be reprinted by going to [www.smfpl.org/kindergarten](http://www.smfpl.org/kindergarten). Go to February 2021 activities and click the **Letters Worksheet** button.
3. A pencil, rather than a marker or a crayon, is the ideal tool for this practice. Be sure your child is holding the pencil correctly as they write. This is the time to begin working on helping your child use the correct hand position for holding a writing tool. Visit [www.smfpl.org/kindergarten](http://www.smfpl.org/kindergarten) for a helpful video.
4. Can your child write their name, using an uppercase letter at the beginning, in the space provided?

### Why we do this:

Children entering kindergarten will be expected to know the letters of the alphabet and to be able to write their first and last names with a capitalized first letter and then remaining lowercase letters.



## Activity #3: Mitten Number Match

### Materials needed:

Pencil, Mitten Number Match worksheet

### Directions for parents:

1. With your child, look at the column of numbers on the right side of the Mitten Number Match worksheet. Starting at the top, point to each number and see if your child can name it. Now ask your child to point to “1,” then point to the number that would come next when counting in order, all the way through 5.
2. Look at the column on the left side of the worksheet. Have your child count the mittens in the first box, then ask them to point to the matching digit in the right column.
3. Have your child place their pencil point on the black dot next to the first mitten box, and tell them to draw a line connecting that dot to the dot next to the “5” box.
4. Continue to count the mittens in each box, and then draw lines connecting the dots to the correct number.
5. As with the previous worksheet, a pencil is the ideal tool for this practice.
6. Can your child write their name, using an uppercase letter at the beginning, in the space provided?

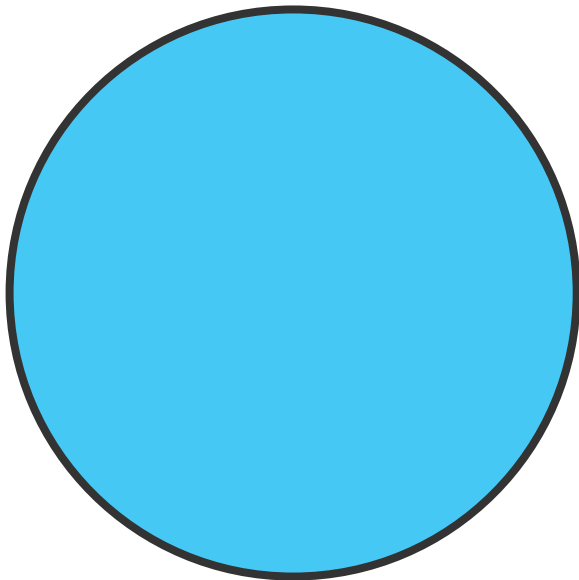
### Why we do this:

Students entering kindergarten are expected to have the following math skills:

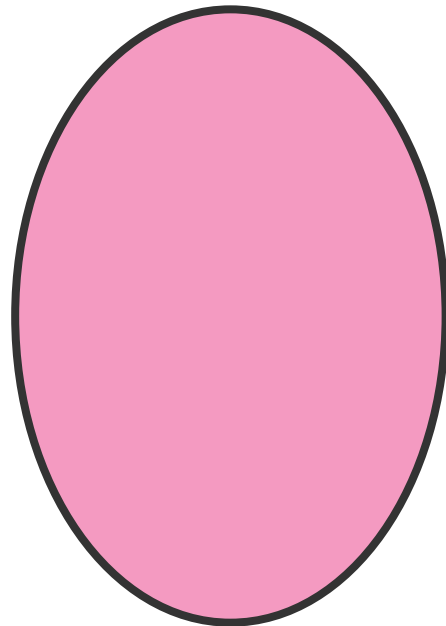
1. Is able to put written numbers from 1 to 5 in the correct order, small to large. Is able to recognize and name the numerals from one to ten.
2. Is able to count verbally from one to ten in the correct order.
3. Understands cardinality; recognizes that the last item counted represents the number of items in the set.

Visit [www.smfpl.org/kindergarten](http://www.smfpl.org/kindergarten)  
every month for additional stories, songs, and video tips.

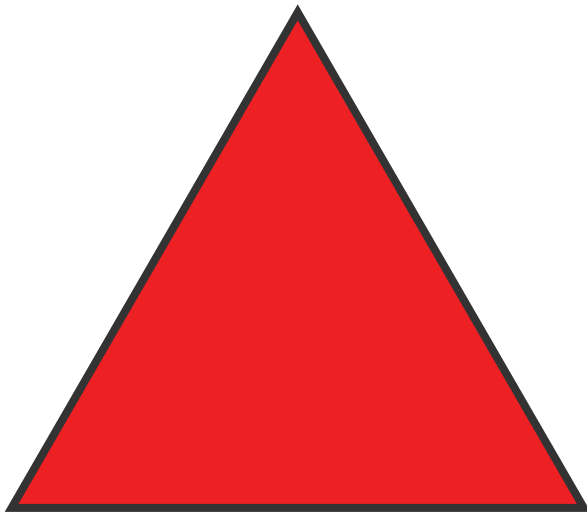
# Shapes



circle



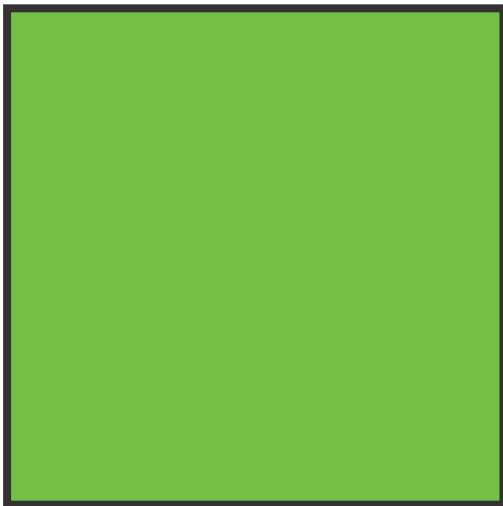
oval



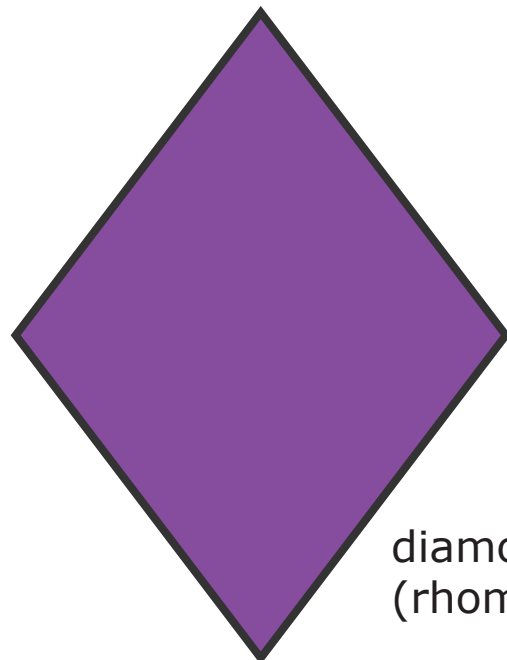
triangle



rectangle



square



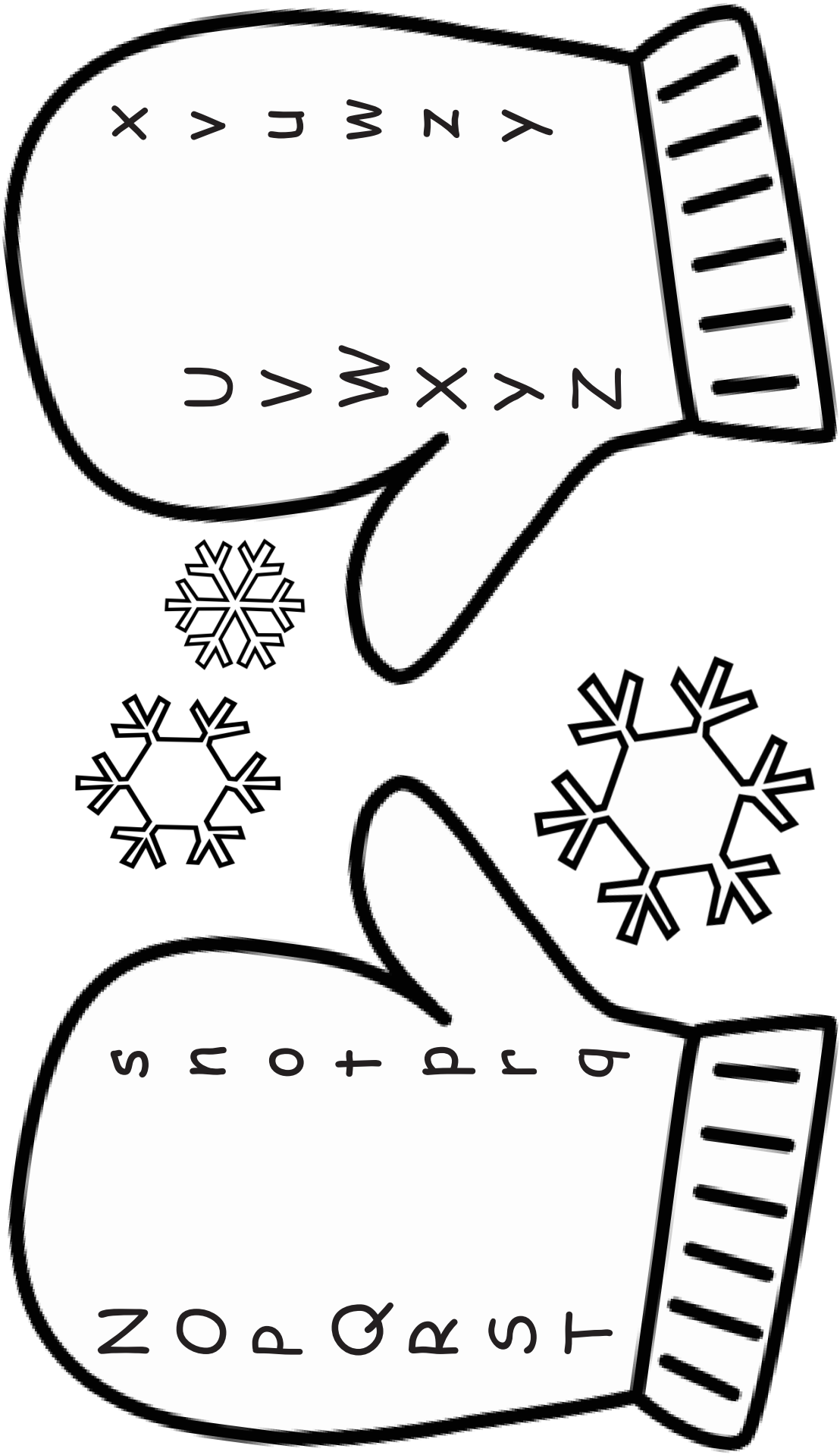
diamond  
(rhombus)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Uppercase and Lowercase Letters

## N to Z

Draw a line from the uppercase letters to the lowercase letters.



\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mitten

# Number Match

Count the mittens in each box. Draw a line to the matching number.

