

VELI Math Storytime #2

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St. Albans Free Library
Math Skill Featured: **Shapes**
Date of Program: 3/11/2013

Number of Attendees: 22



Opening Song: "Open, Shut Them"

The focus of this storytime is recognizing *shapes*. Recognizing and playing with shapes with young children introduces the concept of geometry, an important early math skill, as well as the beginnings of letter knowledge.

First Book: Hall, Michael, *Perfect Square*. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2011

A perfect square that is perfectly happy is torn into pieces, punched with holes, crumpled, and otherwise changed but finds in each transformation that it can be something new, and just as happy.

Song: *The Shape Song*...I use shapes on the felt board and show each one while singing.

(Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*)

A circle's like a ball, a circle's like a ball,
Round and round, it never stops.
A circle's like a ball!

A triangle has three sides, a triangle has three sides,
Up the mountain, down, and back.
A triangle has 3 sides!

A square is like a box, a square is like a box,
It has four sides, they are the same.
A square is like a box!

A rectangle has 4 sides, a rectangle has 4 sides,
Two are long and two are short,
A rectangle has 4 sides!

Second Book: Greene, Rhonda Gowler, *When a Line Bends, A Shape Begins*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1997. Rhymed text describes how shapes are made from simple lines. Some of the verses appear on the page in the shape they describe.

Song: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* (stars, diamond shapes...)

Activity: I draw shapes on a white board and ask the children what they would like me to make them into (animals, letters, objects, etc).

Song: *Aiken Drum* (traditional). Start with a large circle on the white board for his face, and then instead of adding food items for his features (eyes, nose, mouth, ears, hair, body, limbs), ask the children to suggest shapes (ex. "His eyes were made of triangles, triangles, triangles. His eyes were made of triangles, and his name was Aiken Drum!").

Craft: A construction paper sailboat picture. The shapes are already cut out and the children can glue them onto a larger piece of paper into a sailboat picture (or any other design they choose). The sails are triangles, the hull is a semicircle, the mast is a long, thin rectangle, the sun is a circle.

Follow up Activity: The tangram shapes are also out for exploration.

Anecdote: Parents don't often think of math when they think of studying shapes, so I had a good opportunity afterward to talk about how it relates to math and the common core standards.