

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Corduroy's
Shapes**

Written by Mary Jo Scott
and Don Freeman
Illustrated by Lisa McCue

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Shapes are everywhere. Corduroy and his friends notice them and you can too! Gentle rhymes introduce the shape names—circle, square, rectangle, and more—that Corduroy and his friends find as they head to a picnic.

Genre: Informational/concept (shapes)

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Corduroy's Shapes* to introduce in your classroom:

shape names	ground
spread	sweet
balloon	tarts
care	

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with
HighScope
Curriculum**

COR Advantage 1.5

Social and Emotional
Development
Item F (*Building
relationships with other
children*)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N (*Phonological
awareness*)
Item Q (*Book enjoyment
and knowledge*)

Mathematics
Item T (*Geometry:
Shapes and spatial
awareness*)

Reading Tips

Enjoy the upbeat rhyming text with the group or one-on-one as you look for the shapes on each page. Make a note of the rhymes as well as the shapes. "Hey—square and care! They have the same sound. They rhyme!" Ask the children to look carefully at each page to find more shapes. "There are shapes hiding all around!"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Turn **transitions** into shape hunts. Provide labeled, laminated shapes for the children to hold onto as reminders as they look on ceilings, walls and the environment.

Play shape movement games at **Group Time**. Use the laminated shapes to invent games. For example, hop on different shapes while music is playing and stop when music stops and then yell out your shape name.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Provide extra shape sorters and shape puzzles to explore in the **Toy Area**.

Place other shape books as well as other *Corduroy* stories to enhance the **Book Area**.

Provide props in the **House Area** to pretend a picnic like in the story.

Copy the pictures in the book to use as labels for the block shelf in the **Block Area**.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Corduroy's Shapes*:

What would you bring on a picnic?

Where would you have your party? Why?

Corduroy has a round pink cake with sprinkles. What would your perfect cake be?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Corduroy's Shapes* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The book *Corduroy's Shapes* has us finding shapes everywhere! Enjoy the rhymes in this simple but sweet story as you and your child look for shapes on the pages. Ask your child to look around the room and try to spot various shapes from the story. While you are on errands or walks together, notice shapes in the environment. "There is a green rectangle that says our street name. Can you find another rectangle?" Notice the sidewalk. "Hey! I spy under our feet a lot of squares!"

Encourage your child to be observant for shapes and share his or her findings with you. These types of interactions are some of the best teaching your child can have.