



Making Shapes in Preschool

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Preschoolers are constantly developing new skills. It is a time of immense growth in so many different areas. At this age, children observe and experience their world and often try things for the very first time. It certainly is an exciting time! Your child will spend a lot of preschool time learning about **simple shapes**. It may seem like a simple skill—to be able to name a circle a circle, but it takes a lot of thought. **Observational skills** require your child to be able to focus on one object long enough to identify its traits or attributes. Then, they need to use their working memory to remember where they have seen a shape like this before and what was its name. Finally, they must have the **vocabulary** to tell you what the shape is. That is a lot for a young mind to do!

Now, ask your child to draw that shape and you have added a whole other set of skills. Fine motor skills refer to the ability to make movements with the small muscles in your hands. Believe it or not, your child began developing their fine motor skills as soon as they were born. When tiny babies grip onto an adult finger, that reflex is working to develop the muscles required for other movements. As muscles get stronger, children are able to do more and more with their hands like grab objects, use their fingers to stock items, string large wooden beads and eventually hold crayons and markers. Once your child is able to hold a writing utensil, they may find tracing a fun and entertaining activity. There are many ways that you can help your child to develop their fine motor skills:

- Playing with play dough
- Painting
- Water play with sponges
- Stringing pasta onto yarn
- Building with pipe cleaners

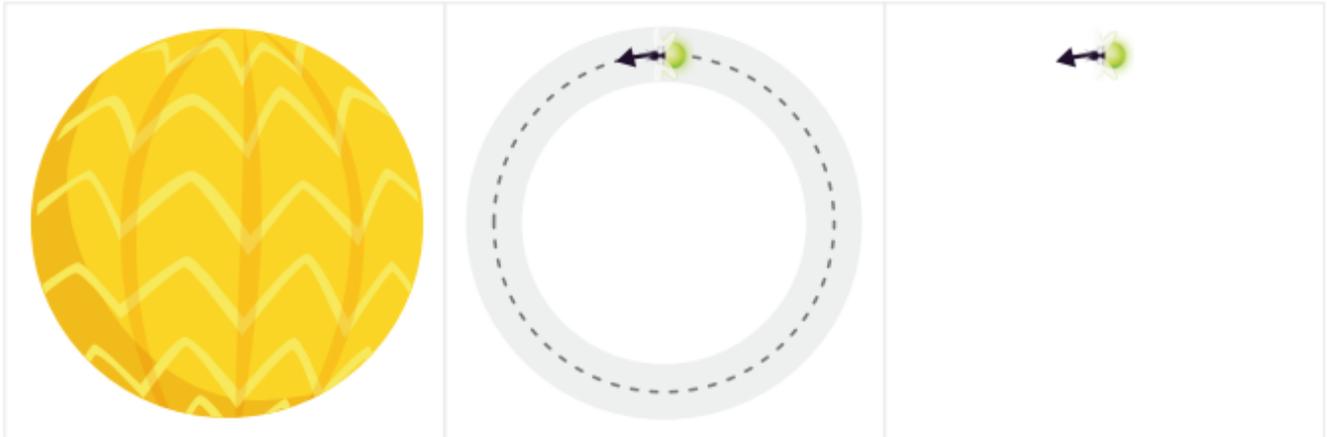
This **activity** uses simple shapes and real world objects to reinforce the naming of basic shapes. Encourage your child to describe the shape and then trace it with their finger. Once they have done that, they can use a pencil, crayon or marker to follow the tracing lines on the paper and finally, try to draw the shape on their own. Their independent shape will probably not look exactly like a circle or a square, but encourage them to do their best and praise their effort.

Circle

A **circle** is round.

Trace the **circle**. Then draw your own **circle**.

Start at the Firefly.

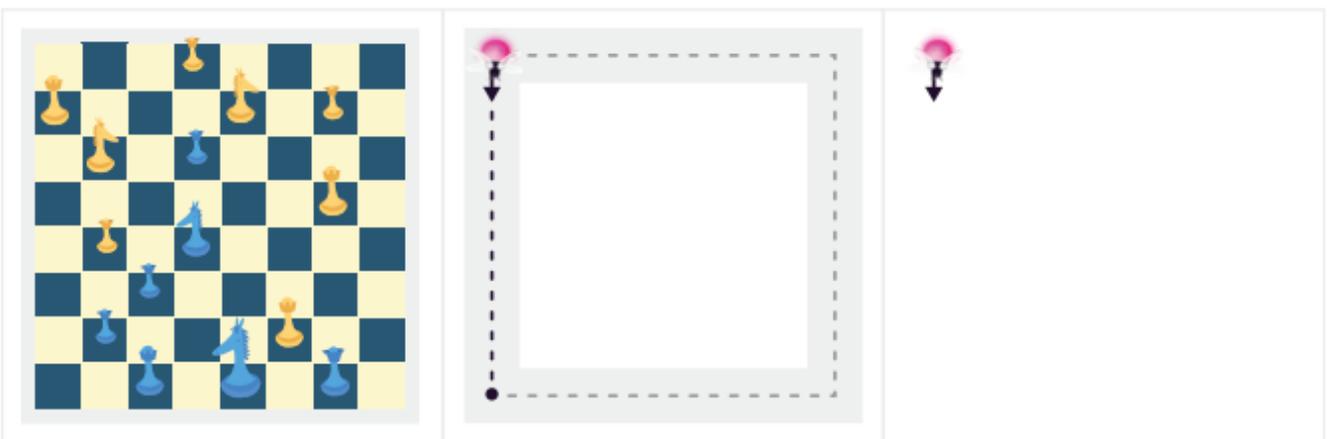


Square

A **square** has four equal sides.

Trace the **square**. Then draw your own **square**.

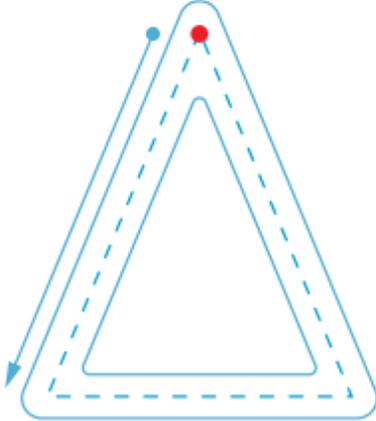
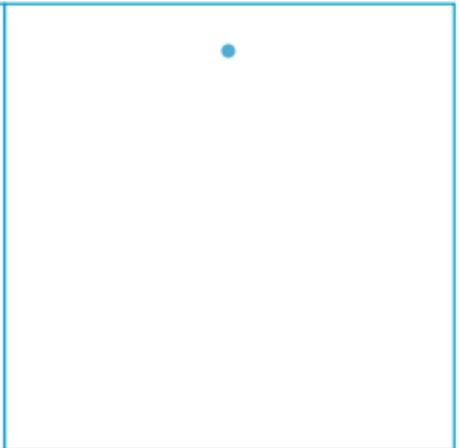
Start at the Firefly.



Similarly in this [shape tracing worksheet](#), your child will enjoy identifying the name of the object as well as the shape of the object. You can extend this activity by asking them to find other things in their environment that are triangles or rectangles.

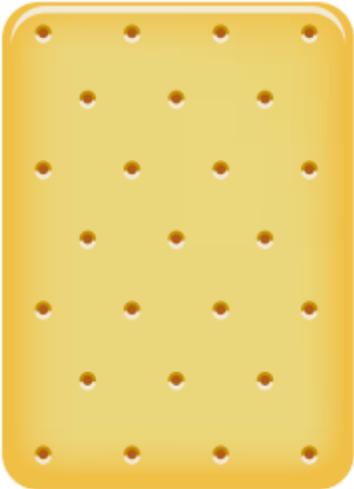
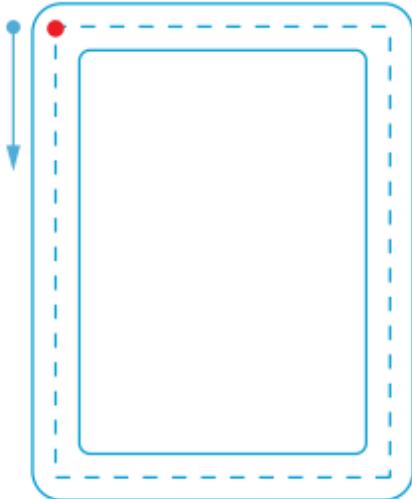
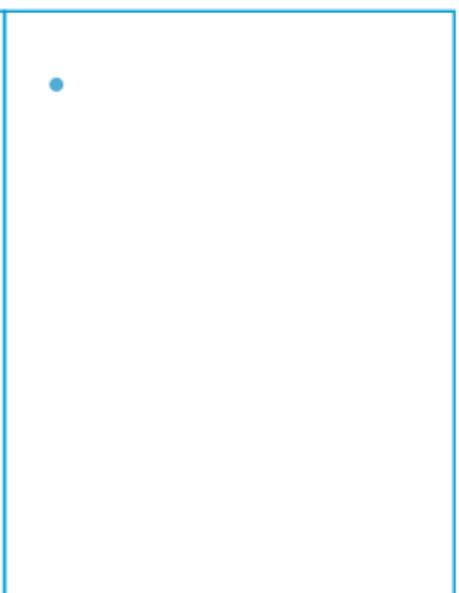
Triangle

A triangle has 3 sides. Trace the triangle.
Then draw your own triangle.

		
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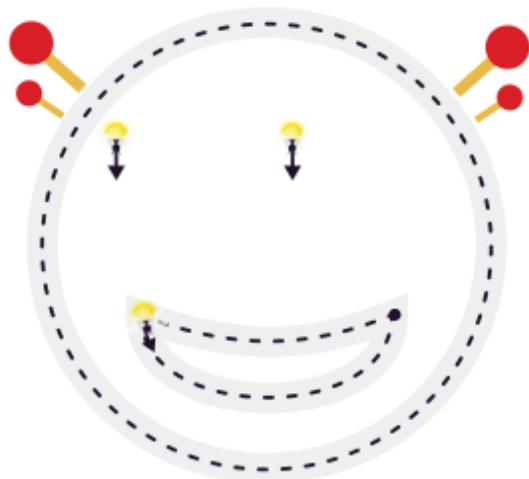
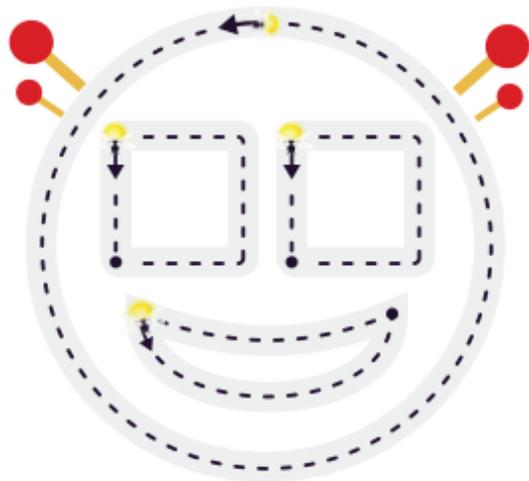
Rectangle

A rectangle has 2 longer sides and 2 shorter sides.
Trace the rectangle. Then draw your own rectangle.

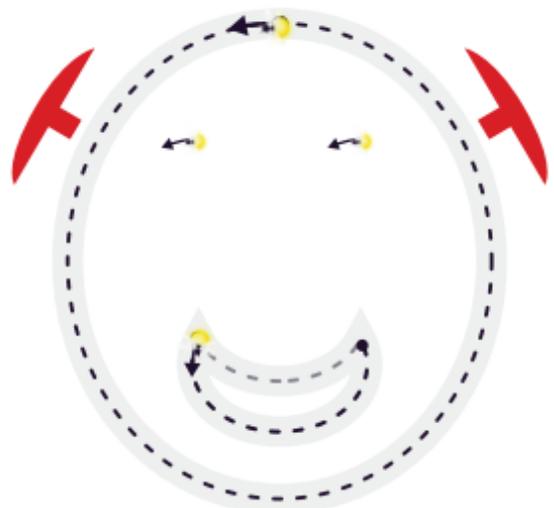
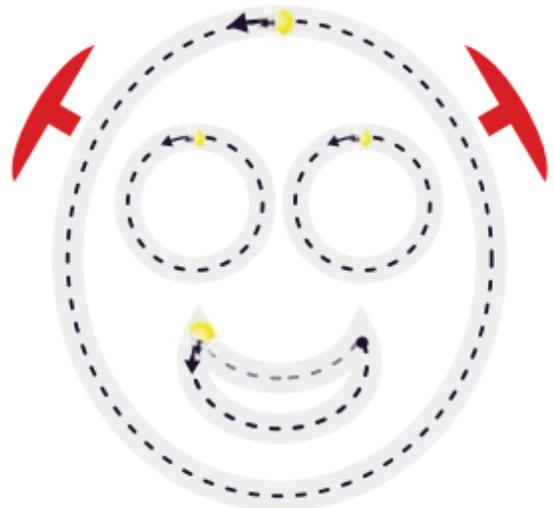
		
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Once kids have mastered drawing basic shapes, invite them to the exciting task of creating a whole new picture using shapes. These robot worksheets will be a great practice for kids for refining their motor skills and getting creative employing the skills they already have. Click on the interactive worksheets to complete them online.

Trace the **robot's face**.
Then draw the missing **square** shapes.

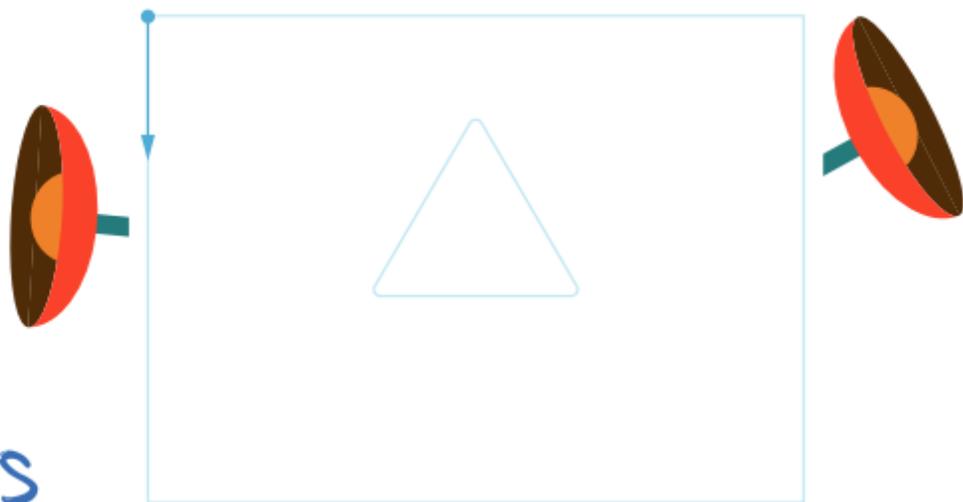
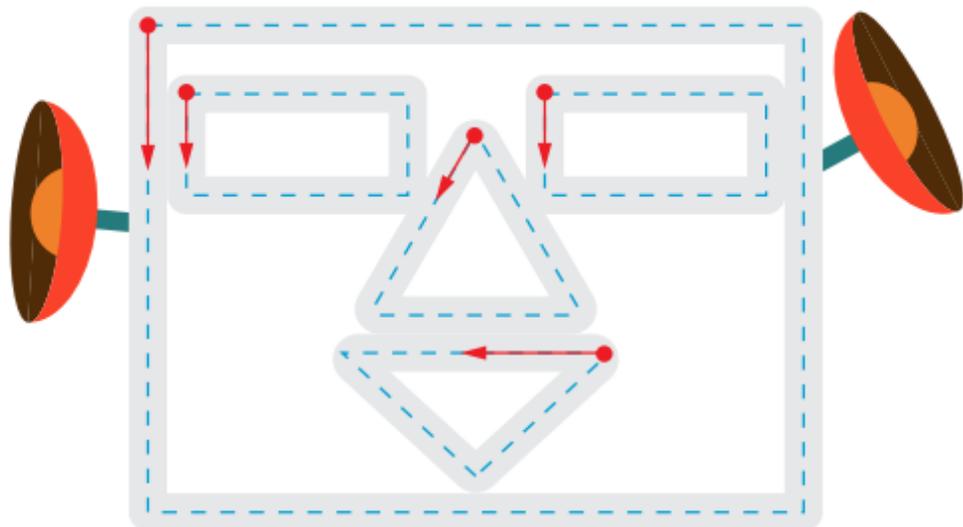
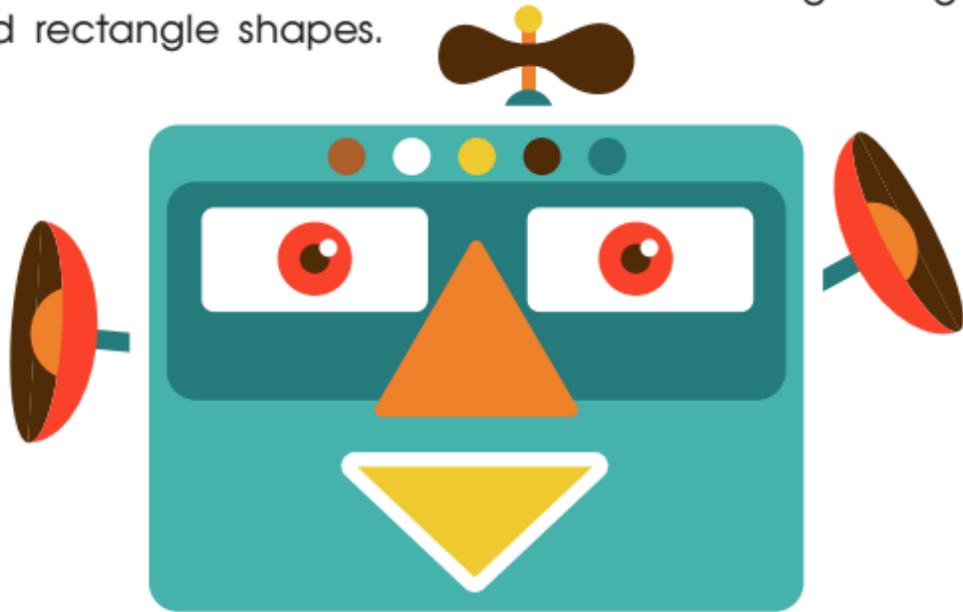


Trace the **robot's face**.
Then draw the missing **circle** shapes.



Robot Shapes

Trace the robot face. Then draw the missing triangle and rectangle shapes.



Your child will build the skills needed to identify shapes throughout their preschool experience. Fine motor skills paired with shape identification is a great way to reinforce mathematical skills.

Continue your child's learning experience with more activities in our catalogue; use the drop-down menu at the top of the page or the link to related articles on the right.

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Elementary Teacher

