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123! Play with Me! Take-Home Kit: Puzzles



Tetris Shape Puzzle

Supplies in Kit:

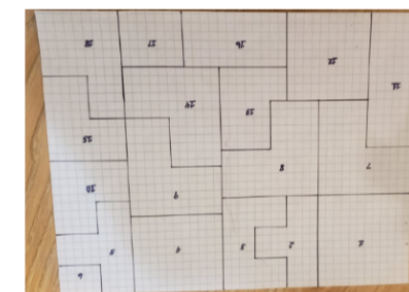
2 Pieces Colored Paper, 1 Piece Graph Paper

Supplies You Will Need:

Ruler, Pencil, Ballpoint Pen, Tape, Scissors

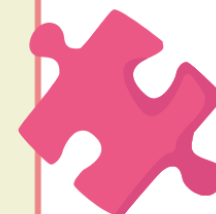
Instructions:

- 1) Using a pencil and ruler draw Tetris-like shapes on the graph paper (about 10 shapes for children ages 2-3, up to 20 shapes for 4-5 year olds).
- 2) Tape the graph paper to a colored sheet of paper on all four sides. Do not tape over any of the lines. Use a ballpoint pen and ruler to trace over all the lines on the graph paper pressing hard. Before carefully removing the tape, fold up each corner to check the lines have been carved in the colored paper.
- 3) Repeat the same steps for the second sheet of colored paper.
- 4) Number the pieces on both sheets of paper. Use the same number for the same piece on each page. Cut the shapes apart.



Let's Play

When playing with your child begin with one color and put the puzzle together with the numbers up to assist with placement. Once the single-color puzzle has been mastered you can mix the two colors together (make sure you use each number in your mix) for a more challenging puzzle. Turning the pieces over and making the puzzle without the numbers showing can also provide an additional challenge.



For older children you can create a true Tetris game by cutting the front off a cereal box and then placing the pieces in the box until the box is full without leaving any empty spaces.



123! Play with Mei

Take-Home Kit: Puzzles



Popsicle Stick Two-Sided Puzzle

Supplies You Will Need:

13 Popsicle Sticks, 2 Stickers, Crayons

Supplies in Kit:

Instructions:

1) Draw pictures on each of the stickers – covering the entire sticker. tape across the center of the popsicle sticks sticking it to the table.

3) Place one sticker on the popsicle sticks. The sticks must show on either side of the sticker. Label the top from A-M (one on each stick) and the bottom from 1-13.

4) Separate the sticks from one another by folding the last stick toward the sticker and pressing along the entire length of the stick. Unfold and use your fingernail to slice through the sticker along the length of the stick. Repeat the process until all sticks are separated.

5) Place the popsicle sticks with picture down from A-M (left to right) on the table with tops even. Place a piece of tape across the center of the popsicle sticks sticking it to the table..

6) Place the second sticker on the popsicle sticks. The sticks must show on either side of the sticker. Label the top from N-Z (one for each stick) and the bottom from 14-26.

7) Separate the sticks from one another again as described above.

To play with 2-3-year-olds lay the sticks with one set of numbers face up and have them put the picture together. They can learn both the alphabet and numbers in order by putting the puzzle together using those elements. For older children give them the sticks and let them know there are two puzzles to solve and watch how they solve them. The puzzle can reinforce their knowledge of the alphabet and number order as they work it as well.

Let's Play



Video



<https://vimeo.com/466629066>



Recommended Reading



Amazing animals
(Kasia Dudziuk)

Animals around the world
(Stefan Lohr)

Clothesline Clues to the First
Day of School
(Kathryn Helling)

Express delivery from Dinosaur
World (Yanan Dong)

Where's Walrus
(Stephen Savage)

The lost picnic
(B.B. Cronin)

Where's the baby?
(Britta Teckentrup)



Why Do We Do Puzzles?

** Working Tetris-like puzzles helps children learn to identify approximate lengths, widths, and depths which will assist them with math and science classes in the future as well as putting their toys away in the toolbox.

** Working two-sided puzzles helps children learn to pay attention to detail and to recognize colors and pieces of shapes.

