Tangram Puzzles

Supplies needed

- Cut out the attached tangram puzzle printable or visit this link: pbs.org/parents/printables/tangrams
- For examples of what shapes you can make you can watch this video together with your child: pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ket-earlychild-art12/tangrams/

Conversation Starters: These are questions to ask while working with your child.

- How many of each shape do you see?
- Talk about the colors of each shape?
- Where else around the house can we see these same shapes and colors?
- How many different kinds of pictures can you make with your tangram pieces?

Cyberchase Online Game | Tangram
pbskids.org/cyberchase/games/tangram-game
A tangram puzzle uses 7 polygon shapes to create a larger shape or picture.

Cut out the tangram shapes on the next page and then try to complete these challenges:

- Can you use all 7 shapes to recreate the number and animal images shown in the pictures?
- Can you create your own shapes or figures using the 7 polygon shapes?
- Can you use the shapes to tell an odd story?

TANGRAMS

Odd Squad Video: How to Repair Oonabot
http://pbskids.org/video/odd-squad/2365799193
is a perfect video to go along with this activity.
Tangrams

TAKE IT FURTHER:
Try these shapes too!

Cut out each colored shape.

For more printables, go to pbskidsforparents.org
Play With Your Food! Tangram Puzzle Sandwiches

Ready to eat some geometry? Here’s a quick way to turn lunchtime into math play!

**Before You Play**

Tell your child that he is going to make a tangram puzzle that he can eat! Explain that a tangram is a Chinese puzzle traditionally made from cutting a square into different pieces that can be arranged in different ways to make different designs. And, they’re fun!

**Materials**

- 2 pieces of bread
- Jam
- Rolling pin
Directions

1. Give your child the rolling pin to roll out pieces of bread. They should be nice and flat.

2. Have him stack the bread. Then, help him cut the crusts so there's a 4 by 4 inch square.

3. Let him spread the jam on one slice and lay the other on top.

4. Use the knife to cut the bread as pictured.

5. Now, challenge your child to create pictures using the shapes from his tangram sandwich before he eats them.

6. Before he eats his geometry, ask your child, "Can you identify the triangle? Square? Parallelogram?"

Jennifer Cooper is the blogger behind Classic-Play.com, an online resource for creative families. Her favorite pastimes include dancing around her living room, watching “The Pink Panther” with her kids, and daydreaming. Jennifer lives in Baltimore, Maryland, with her husband, Photographer Dave Cooper, and two children.

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