





Fine motor skills development

Being able to recognize and draw basic shapes is fundamental for handwriting and drawing activities.

The activities in this book teach children how to combine shapes to form a picture. This is essentially what a letter is, a combination of shapes. This can be seen in the table below.

Numbers are also formed through combining shapes, although maths skills and number formation is not the focus of this book, the shapes needed to form numbers are listed in the table below for your information.

Letters that use vertical and horizontal lines		i, l, E, F, H, I, L, T
Letters and numbers that use curved lines		c, e, o, s C, O, S, U, 3, 6, 8, 9, 0
Letters that use vertical, horizontal lines, and curved lines.		a, b, d, f, g, h, j, m, n, p, r, t, u B, D, G, J, P 2, 5
Letters that use vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines		k, q, v, w, x, y, z A, K, M, N, Q, R, V, W, X, Y, Z 1, 4, 7

Start with Art Stages



Colour



The template page provides all the shapes needed for each design. Simply photocopy the template page, ask the child to colour the shapes in the appropriate colours, then follow the step-by-step instructions to create the design.

✓ **Quick tip:** To differentiate the activity for children or to save time - photocopy the template page onto coloured paper. Use 170g thickness of paper for the best results.

✚ **Extension:** For an additional activity the children can also draw the shapes themselves. The shapes in the activities are compatible with stencil set (AFMT12668) available from ldlearning.com

Cut



Ask the child to cut out the shapes (For younger children you may wish to pre-cut the shapes).

✓ **Quick tip:** If the child finds cutting the smaller shapes too difficult, they have been also been drawn onto the larger shape for some designs so they can be coloured directly. This is also intended to help the child position the shapes. However, in order to develop good scissor control they should be encouraged to try cutting the smaller shapes too as you work through the designs.

Make



Talk the child through how to stick the pieces together and reinforce the shape names and sizes.

Then simply follow instructions.

✓ **Quick tip:** Use the picture in the book or make a sample picture to show the class the end product.

✚ **Extension:** An outline of where to position smaller shapes on-top of bigger shapes has been given for each design. This is to assist the child to position the shapes correctly together or to help children who find cutting small shapes difficult. However the child should be encouraged to use their visual skills to do this themselves if possible. The reverse side of the larger shape can be used to develop this skill.

Draw



Once the child has made the design they are ready to reinforce the shapes through drawing the picture.

Use the step by step guide to show the children how to draw the picture

Part of some of the designs are easier to draw with lines instead of the full shape. This is indicated in the step-by-step how to draw page where appropriate and in the target shapes reference in the corner of each how to make page.

✓ **Quick tip:** Allow them to colour their own picture and add details to make it individual.



Shapes

Gingerbread man

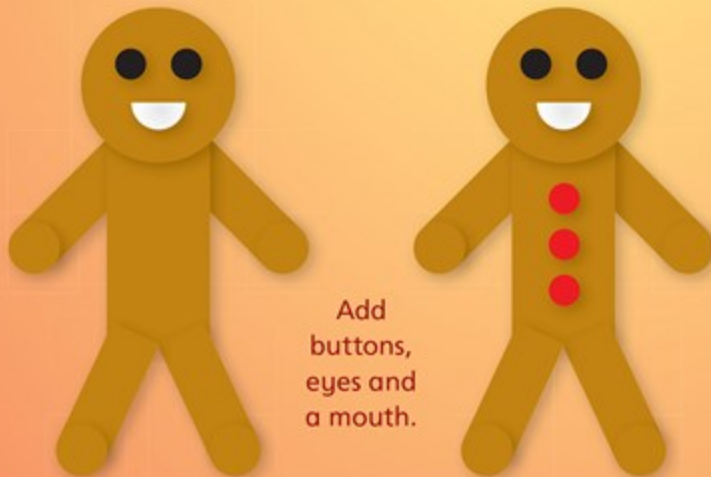
Run, run as fast as you can...
You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!



Place the largest rectangle down first for the body. Stick the head overlapping the body. Add the smaller rectangles for arms and legs.



Use the smallest circles to make the hands and feet.



Add buttons, eyes and a mouth.



Watch out for the sly fox!
(see page 99 for the fox design).

