About the Story

Bear introduces different shapes on each page of the bilingual story, *Bear in a Square*. Whether he’s at home or in the park, there are squares, circles, and other shapes hidden in each scene. The number of shapes increases from one to 10, making this a good story to talk about both shapes and numbers.

**Words to learn**

**SHAPES**
- square
- heart
- circle
- rectangle
- moon
- diamond
- zigzag
- oval
- star

**OTHER WORDS**
- queen
- pool
- cave
- crown
- clown

About the Math

When talking about the different shapes, your child can learn:

- Each shape has its own name, such as rectangle, oval, and circle.
- Shapes have specific properties that make them different from other shapes. For example, a rectangle has four sides, but an oval has no sides.
- We can recognize shapes that are different sizes and positions. For example, if we turn a rectangle on its side, or every which way, it’s still a rectangle.
- Shapes are all around us!

Math Talk During Reading

**TALK ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SHAPES**
- How many sides does a square have? What about a star?

**NOTICE THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SHAPES**
- How do you know this is an oval? How is it different from a circle?

**TALK ABOUT THE OTHER SHAPES IN THE PICTURE**
- What other shapes do you see, besides the hearts?

**PRACTICE COUNTING THE NUMBER OF SHAPES ON THE PAGE**
- How many circles can you find?
- Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments too!

Activity After Reading

**FIND SHAPES AROUND THE HOUSE OR ALMOST ANYWHERE ELSE**
- Let’s look around. Do you see any triangles? What do you notice about this one? Why is it a triangle?