

TRACING SHAPES

An activity to do after reading *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker

Description

Practice your fine motor skills by tracing shapes found around the home, and cut them out to create your own movable construction truck inspired by *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker.

Audience

3–6 years, with adult supervision

Time

30 minutes

Materials

- Paper, construction paper, cardstock, or cardboard
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Pencil
- Markers or colored pencils
- Metal fasteners
- Yarn or string (optional, use if you do not have metal fasteners)
- Items to trace from around the home

Guiding questions

- 1 Similar to human bodies, construction trucks have movable joints, or places where two pieces connect. Movable joints help humans and trucks complete their tasks with ease. Look at your elbow. Notice how it connects your upper arm to your lower arm. It allows you to have a greater reach and range of motion. Today you'll be creating movable joints for your construction truck.
- 2 What are some different types of construction trucks? What are their functions? How do they move?

Instructions

- 1 Construction trucks come in all shapes and sizes, and each performs a different task. Think about what kind of construction truck you want to make today. Draw or write your ideas on a piece of paper, then share them with a caregiver. What will your truck do (scoop, pull, twist, dig, etc.)? What are the individual shapes you need to make your truck work?
- 2 Next, it's time to go on a scavenger hunt around the home to find objects to trace. The shapes will form your truck. Start with basic shapes: where can you find circles (canned food, small flower pots), squares (pad of post-it notes, coaster), or rectangles (the side of a book)? Then, find irregular shapes to trace. Consider what might make an interesting curve, bend, or point. Gather all your objects on a flat surface.
- 3 On a piece of paper, cardstock, or cardboard, use a pencil to trace around an object while holding it steady with the other. Repeat with all other objects until you have the

shapes you need to assemble your truck. Be careful to leave enough room around each shape for cutting; your shapes should not overlap.

- 4 Cut out your shapes carefully. Ask an adult for help if you need to.
- 5 Lay out your shapes and think about where you want each piece to connect. What parts go together? Punch a hole in the connecting pieces where they will form the joint. *If you do not have a hole punch, a pencil or dowel can be used by a caregiver to poke a hole.*
- 6 Use a metal fastener, yarn or string to connect two pieces.
- 7 Continue steps 5 and 6 until your truck is finished with movable joints. Finish your truck by adding details and color with markers or colored pencils!

Share your work

We'd love to see your work! Share your creation with the Chicago Architecture Center on Facebook or Instagram, using the hashtag #ChiArchitecture

Take it a step further!

Create a whole team of trucks to work together! What will they build? You can create a city full of shapes. Practice finding and naming all the shapes! What other shapes can you find at home? Can you find 5 triangles and 5 circles? Many more challenges await. Visit our website architecture.org/learn where we regularly post new activities.