

Sisters In Stitches

www.sisters-in-stitches.com

July/August 2007

Sisters' Idea Corner

We published our first newsletter on our web site in April of 2006. Over the last year we noticed that our newsletter was not really a newsletter but rather a forum for ideas on how to use and extend learning based on a particular felt set or theme. We like the notion of sharing our ideas with you, our customers, and hopefully sharing your ideas with others. Going forward, we will publish our "Idea Corner" every other month. Our goal is to eventually have it be a monthly offering.

Some of my fondest memories of teaching have been the collaboration between me and my teaching partner. One of us would throw out an idea and the other would add to it and before we knew it, we had come up with new lessons and enhanced old ones. This is what we hope to create here with our "Idea Corner". We will begin with an idea or theme and we hope to engage you in the discussion and share your ideas with others.

I thought it fitting to begin our new format with our Shape Finger Puppet Set. This was the first set I made to use in my own class years ago and it remains one of our most popular. This set includes 5 shape finger puppets; circle, oval, square, rectangle, and triangle, as well as poems for each puppet and extension ideas.

At the beginning of the year I would introduce the 5 basic shapes and spend a day on each. I would have the poems written on large laminated shapes up on the wall of the classroom. Using the finger puppets, I would teach the children a different poem each day and review the ones previously taught. As we recited the poem, the children would "air draw" the shape with their finger.

I had small group centers set up in the classroom that the children rotated through, all related to shapes. The stations would allow the children to practice tracing shapes, exploring with pattern blocks, making shape art with pre-cut shapes, and making their own shape puppets. In the shape puppet station, I would have pre-cut shapes out of thick construction paper or tag board (approximately 4"), yarn (for hair), wiggly eyes, crayons, craft sticks, and copies of the poem. Each day the children would make their own shape puppet (I would have them glue a copy of the poem on the back side of their puppet) and at the end of the week be able to take their set home to share with their family. I am always looking for ways to connect the classroom and the home so that the learning is reinforced.

The poems I taught are as follows:

**Ricky Rectangle is my name,
My four sides are not the same,
Two are short and two are long,
Count my sides come right along
1,2,3,4.**

**I am Sammy Square,
That is my name,
My four sides are just the same.**

**I am Timmy Triangle,
That is my name,
My three sides are short or long or just the same.**

**I am Suzie Circle, watch me bend,
Round and round from end to end.**

**Ollie Oval that is me.
I'm not round as you can see.
Like an egg that is laid,
That is the way I am made.**

I have had many customers tell me that they have their own versions of the poems that they teach, if you are interested in sharing your poems or any other extension ideas, please e-mail us at: Terry@sisters-in-stitches.com or Kathleen@sisters-in-stitches.com. We would love to pass on your ideas in our next "Idea Corner"!

Featured Items

- **EM34 Shape Finger Puppet Set** **\$12.50**
- **FBS16 Color Bear Felt Set** **\$ 6.50**
- **CS100 Scat the Cat Felt Set** **\$ 5.00**
- **FBS21 Color Brainstorming Set** **\$14.50**
- **121 See Inside Shapes Wooden Peg Puzzle** **\$10.00**

**To view our complete product line or place an order for any of the featured items,
go to: www.sisters-in-stitches.com**

We will be at the following conferences:

July 9 – 12, 2007
July 18 - 19, 2007
July 25 - 26, 2007

I Teach K
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SISTERS IN STITCHES

2423 Virginia Ave.
Everett, WA 98201
Toll Free: 866 259 4140
Fax: 425 259 3219
www.sisters-in-stitches.com