

Shapes and Colours Picture Bingo

12-minute suggested lesson | Nursery and Reception | 1-4 players

Listen for a two-part description and match both a colour and a shape.

Learning goals

- Distinguish circle from square using shape features.
- Match both words in a description such as 'red circle'.

Prepare

- Print the two-page pack in colour on A4 landscape and cut out the four cards. Check that the colours remain distinguishable on your printer.

- Provide counters and a real circle and square if available. Keep the labelled caller sheet for reference.

Card pack: A4 landscape, 100% scale. This teacher guide: A4 portrait. Use age-appropriate counters.

Teach and play

0-3 min / Explore the shapes

Show a circle and a square. Describe the circle's curved boundary and the square's four equal straight sides. Rehearse the colour names on the caller sheet.

3-5 min / Model both words

Say 'red circle' and compare it with 'yellow circle'. Point out that both shape and colour matter. Give out cards, mark FREE and demonstrate a line of three.

5-9 min / Call complete labels

Shuffle caller tiles and say each full two-word label. Let children point before marking. Keep each called tile aside to check winning lines.

9-12 min / Sort and describe

After the game, sort the caller tiles by shape. Invite children to describe one tile in full and explain how they distinguished it from another.

Quick learning check

Can the child select the correct tile when another tile has the same shape? Ask which two features they checked.

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Caller prompts and teaching notes | Keep beside the caller sheet

Start with direct labels. Keep called tiles aside. Mark FREE before play; check a row, column or diagonal of three against the call record. All cards share eight items: line wins may tie and full-house games finish together.

Eight labels - matched to the card pack

Red circle	Find the red circle. Check both words.
Blue square	Find the blue square. Check both words.
Yellow circle	Find the yellow circle. Check both words.
Green square	Find the green square. Check both words.
Purple circle	Find the purple circle. Check both words.
Orange square	Find the orange square. Check both words.
White circle	Find the white circle. Look for its outline.
Black square	Find the black square. Check its straight sides.

Teaching note

Several circles or squares share the same shape, so 'find the circle' is not a unique bingo call. Say the full label. If colour discrimination is difficult, use the printed labels with support, or adapt to a shape-sorting discussion rather than requiring colour-only recognition.

Support / extension

Support: Show the matching caller tile as you speak and let pupils use the printed labels or a partner's support. Check the white circle is visible against the page.

Extend: Ask a pupil to call a full description. Sort tiles by shape and explain what makes the squares alike despite their different colours.