# Tangram Puzzles For Very Young Learners

with Carol Read

Tangram is a fun puzzle game designed for the very young children, with simple shapes and different colours to put together. As tangrams comprise seven flat polygons, they can be arranged in a wide variety of ways to create or replicate patterns.

### TANGRAM PIECES (SIDE A)

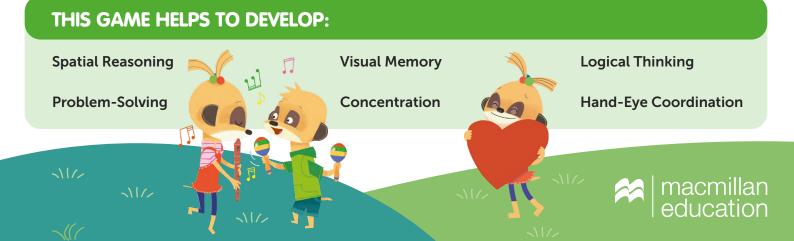
- Start off by letting the children construct their own shapes.
- Pick up each shape and name it.

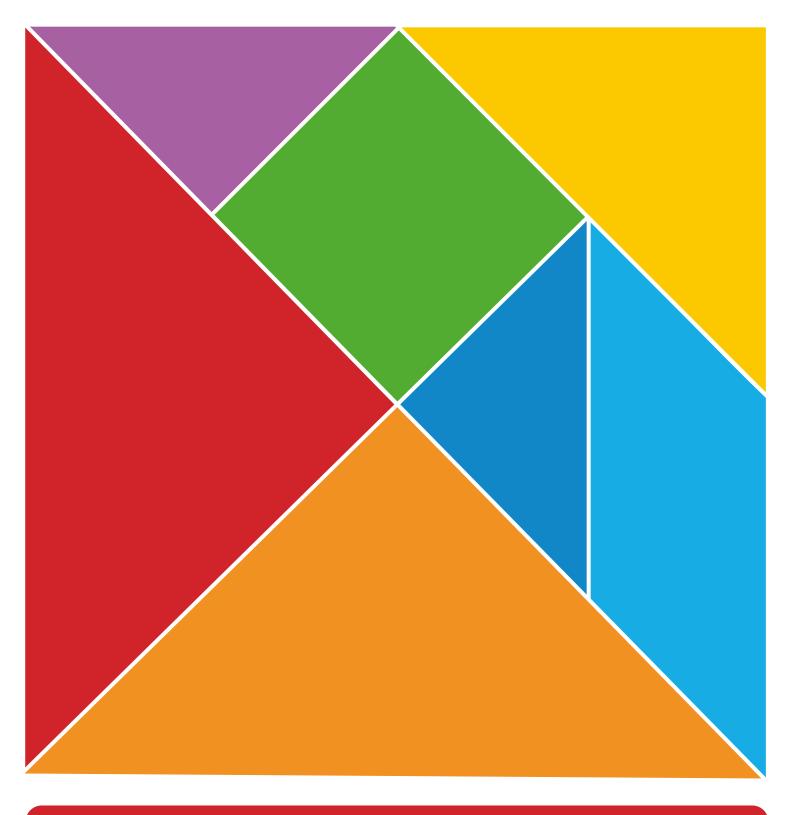
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- While picking up the shapes, have them talk about the colours.
- Ask them to sort the tangram pile by shape or size.
- Play with the combination of shapes. Create objects, animals, even numbers and letters from a combination of other shapes. As you place the shape in the correct place, have the children match the silhouette to the shape.

#### THE WHEELS PUZZLES (SIDE B)

- Look at the Image. While pupils are working on the puzzle, make sure they can see and refer to the image of the final product.
- Use Descriptive Language. As you help your pupils with the puzzle, be sure to use lots of descriptive words. Show them a puzzle piece and have them describe what it looks like. Does it look like part of the ferris wheel? Does it look like a school bag? What colours are on it? Then find other pieces that match that description.
- Spin the Piece Around. Sometimes kids find two pieces that they know go together but can't quite figure out how. Encourage them to spin the piece around and try all sides before giving up.
- Simplify It. If they don't seem to know where to start, just give them a few pieces that you know go together.
- Give Positive Reinforcement. Praise the children when they get some pieces together. Clap your hands, jump or dance if it makes them smile!





## SIDE A - INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Set up a printer to print on both sides of a sheet of paper. You can either use the tangram to play with the colourful geometrical shapes (SIDE A) or as a puzzle game where children will put together the Ferris Wheel picture (SIDE B)
- 2. Cut out the shapes.\*

\*Tip1: You can laminate the pieces

\*Tip 2: You can glue on small magnetic pieces to be able to stick the shapes to a magnetic board





## SIDE B - INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Set up a printer to print on both sides of a sheet of paper. You can either use the tangram to play with the colourful geometrical shapes (SIDE A) or as a puzzle game where children will put together the Ferris Wheel picture (SIDE B)
- 2. Cut out the shapes.\*

\*Tip1: You can laminate the pieces

\*Tip 2: You can glue on small magnetic pieces to be able to stick the shapes to a magnetic board



