



THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD BY WATTY PIPER



TIPS FOR THE READER

In this kit, you will find a wonderful children's book and practical resources you can use to help a child develop important lifelong skills. Use these tips to engage the child in talking about the story, further developing vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. Finally, use the provided materials and **Activity Instructions** to extend and practice new skills.

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD BY WATTY PIPER

"I think I can! I think I can!" This well-loved classic tale of the Little Blue Engine who isn't afraid to try has inspired and entertained generations of children.

Themes covered: determination, persistence, kindness, nutrition

Skills developed: drawing conclusions, vocabulary, learning shapes, writing their name, fine motor skills

Verbal Prompts

Before reading...

- * Show the front of the book and read the title and author.
- * Ask the children what they see on the front. What's riding on the train?
- * Ask what they see on the back cover. Do you see a farm? How many giraffes do you see? What else is riding on the train?

While reading...

- * Talk about the picture and ask children questions. What number do you see on the train? Who is driving the train? What is the train riding on? Etc.
- * Point to the word and get the children to repeat with you, "I think I can" and, "I thought I could."

After reading, ask...

- * Why did the train need to go over the mountain?
- * Who did the little engine ask to help him?
- * What is something that is hard for you to do? Who could you ask for help?
- * What did the little engine do to get over the mountain? How did he feel when he got over the mountain?



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1 PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

CHOO CHOO TRAIN RHYME

Help extend children's learning with this Choo Choo Train rhyme!

Supplies You'll Need

- Copies of Choo Choo Train rhyme

Kit Assembly Instructions

Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

Choo Choo Train

This is the choo-choo train. (bend arms at elbows)

Puffing down the track. (rotate arms in rhythm)

Now it's going forward.

Now it's going back.

Now the bell is ringing. (pull cord with closed fist "ding, ding")

Now the whistle blows. (hold hands around mouth "woo, woo")

What a lot of noise it makes,

Everywhere it goes! (cover ears with hands)



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1 **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS**

CHOO CHOO TRAIN RHYME

Help extend children's learning with this Choo Choo Train rhyme!

Follow These Steps

1. Learn the I'm a Choo Choo Train rhyme via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imMyou5JBuo> and by reading the words and motions provided.
2. Get the children in a circle to sing the rhyme.
3. Do it several times so the children can learn the words and motions.



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2 PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

SHAPE TRAIN

Help extend children's learning by creating this Shape Train!

Supplies You'll Need

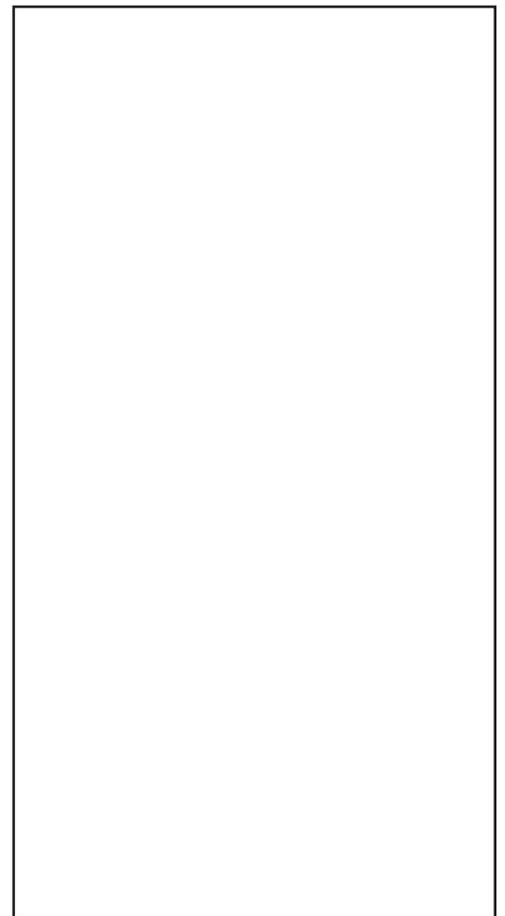
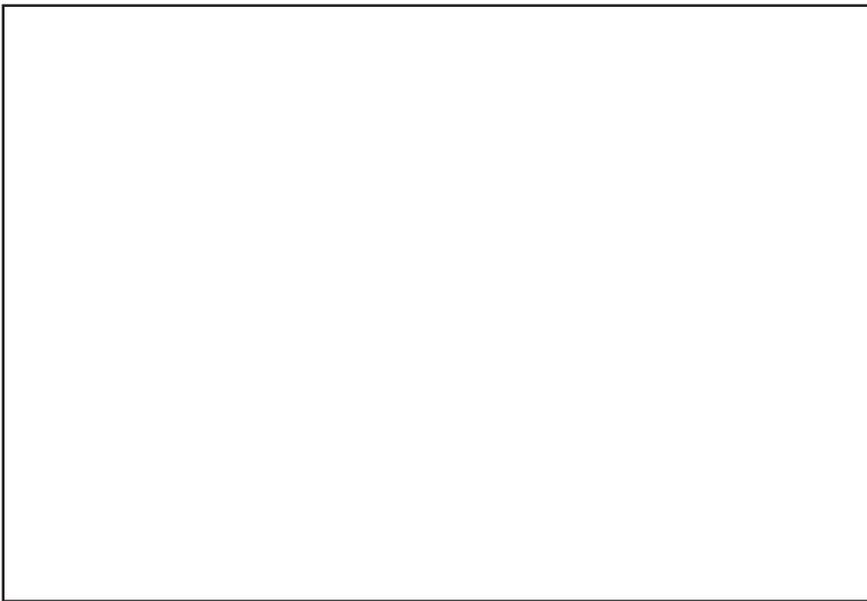
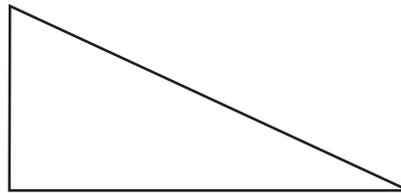
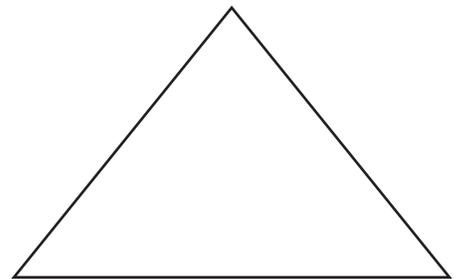
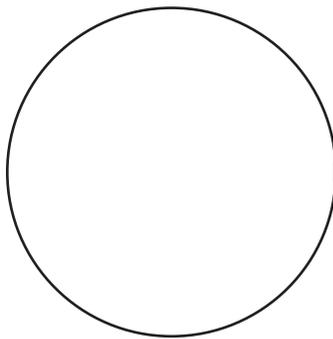
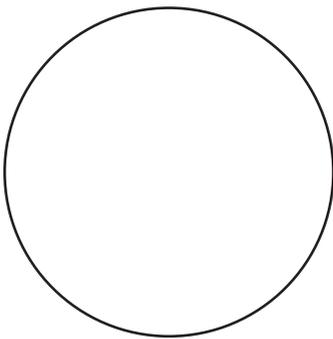
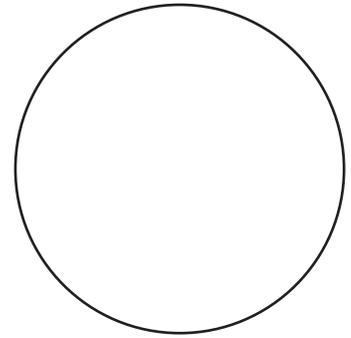
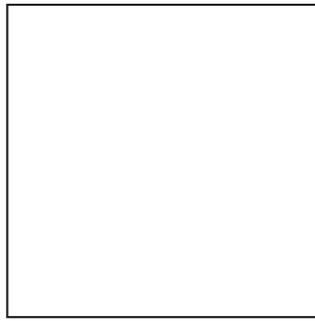
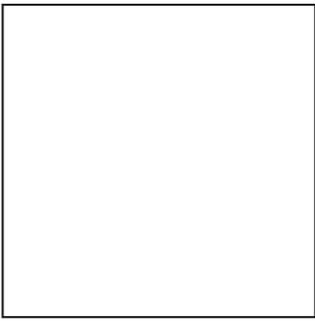
- Templates of Shape Train drawing and of shapes
- Children's scissors
- Crayons
- Glue stick
- Card stock
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. Make copies of the full train and the shapes page. If you're making the kit for a preschool classroom, you'll need copies of the train for each group (four children per group), and enough copies of the shapes template for each child.
2. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

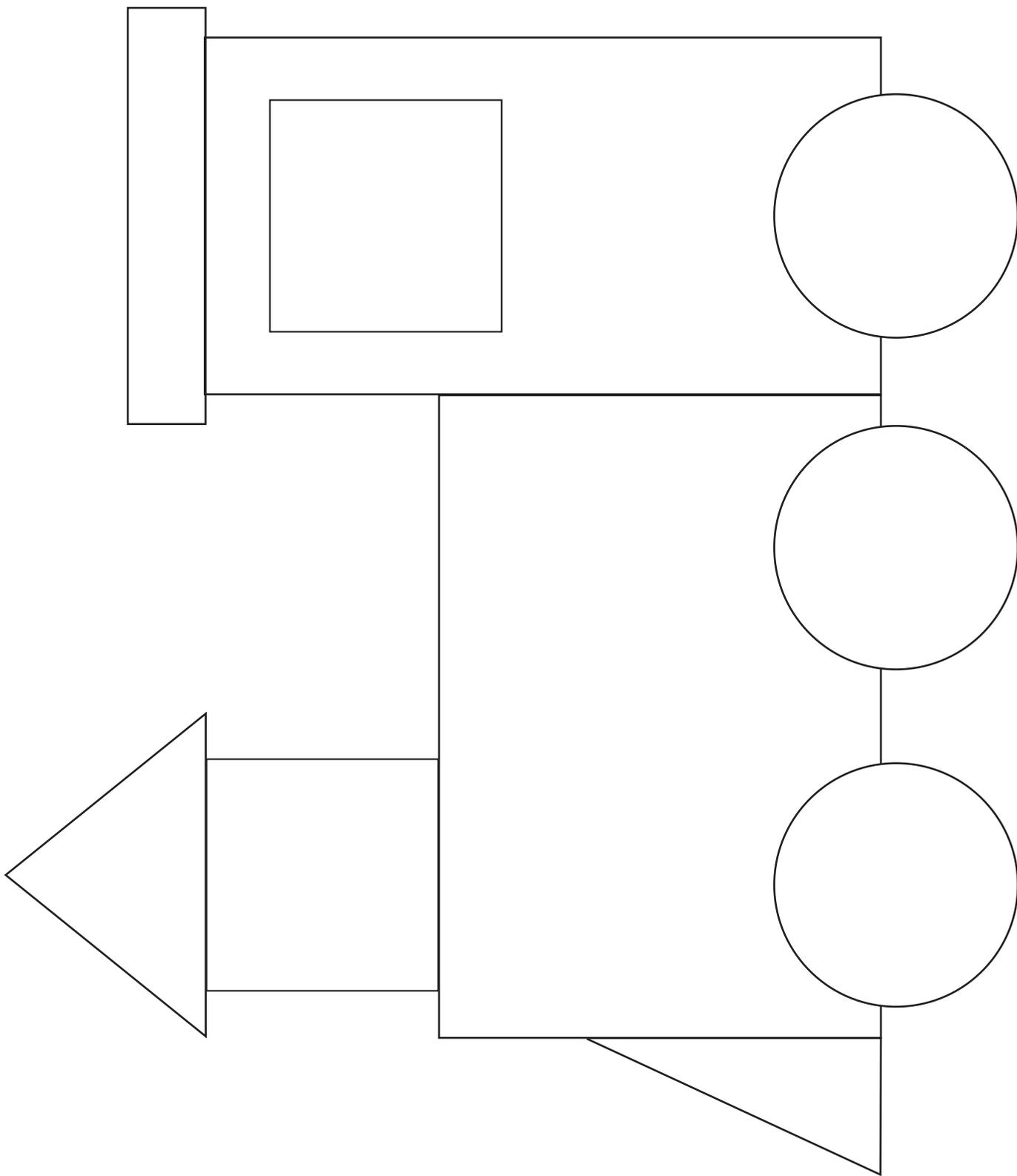
PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2

TEMPLATE



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2

TEMPLATE





PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2 **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS**

SHAPE TRAIN

Help extend children's learning by creating this Shape Train!

Follow These Steps

1. Give each child a copy of shapes, crayons, scissors, glue stick and a piece of card stock. If you're in a classroom, children should be in groups of four.
2. Show them the train drawing. In a classroom, give each group of children a copy of the train.
3. Let them know their task is to color the shapes, cut them out and glue them on the card stock in the shape of an engine.
4. As the children are working, talk about the shapes and colors. Ask questions about their work, e.g., What color are your train wheels? How many squares are in your picture? Rectangles? Circles? Triangles?



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1 PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

COLORING AND MATCHING SHAPES (AGES 0-2)

Help extend children's learning with this shape matching activity!

Supplies You'll Need

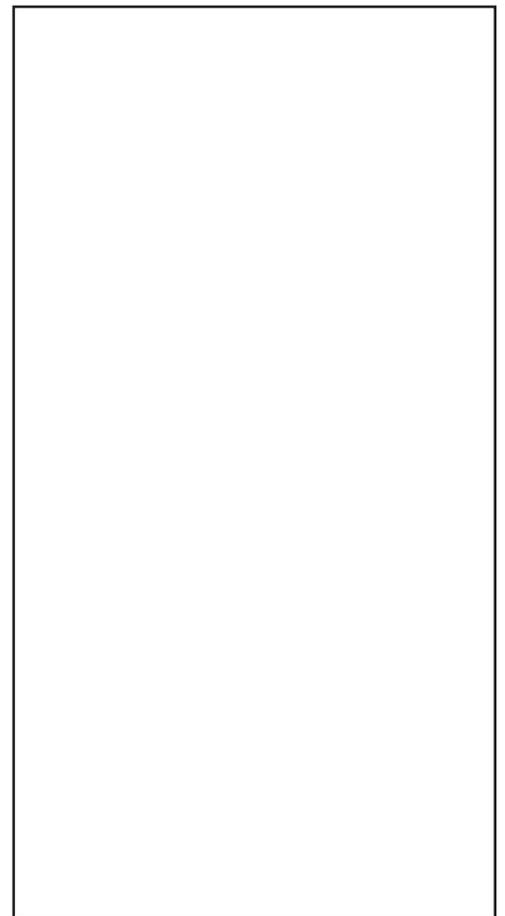
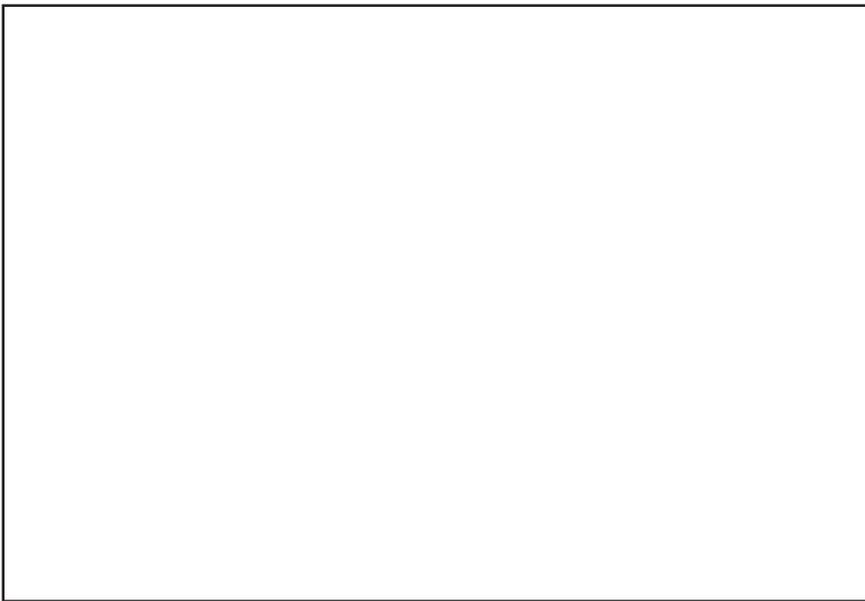
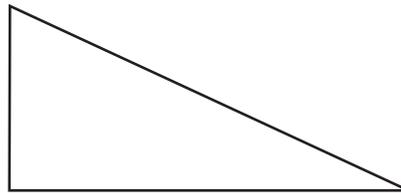
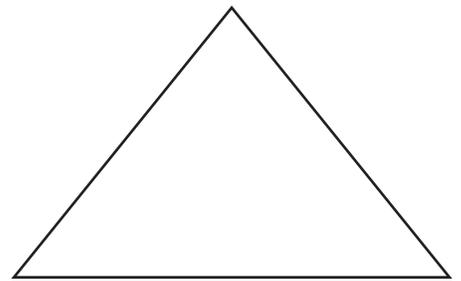
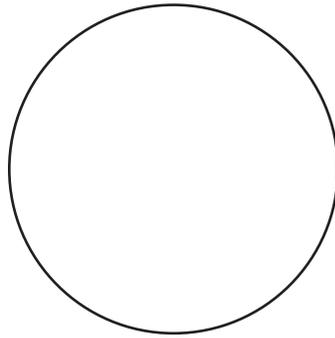
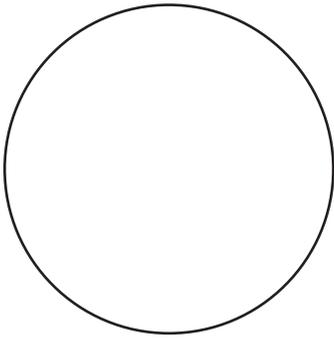
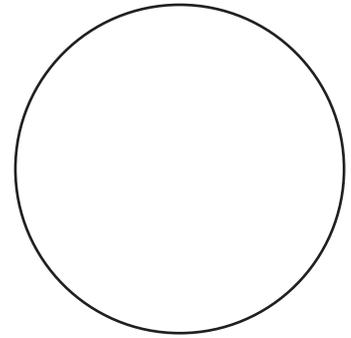
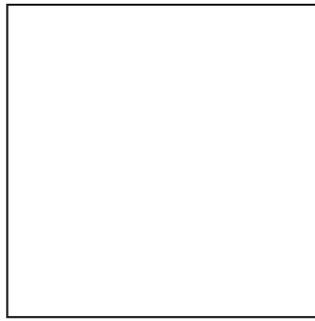
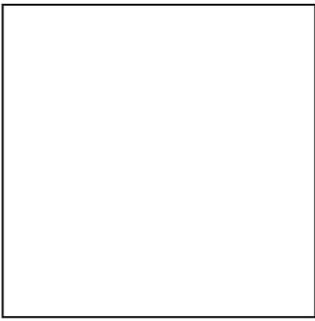
- Templates of Shape Train drawing and of shapes
- Card Stock
- Crayons
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. One copy card stock of each template per child.
2. Cut out the individual shapes.
3. Put the shapes and the full shape train image in the bags.
4. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

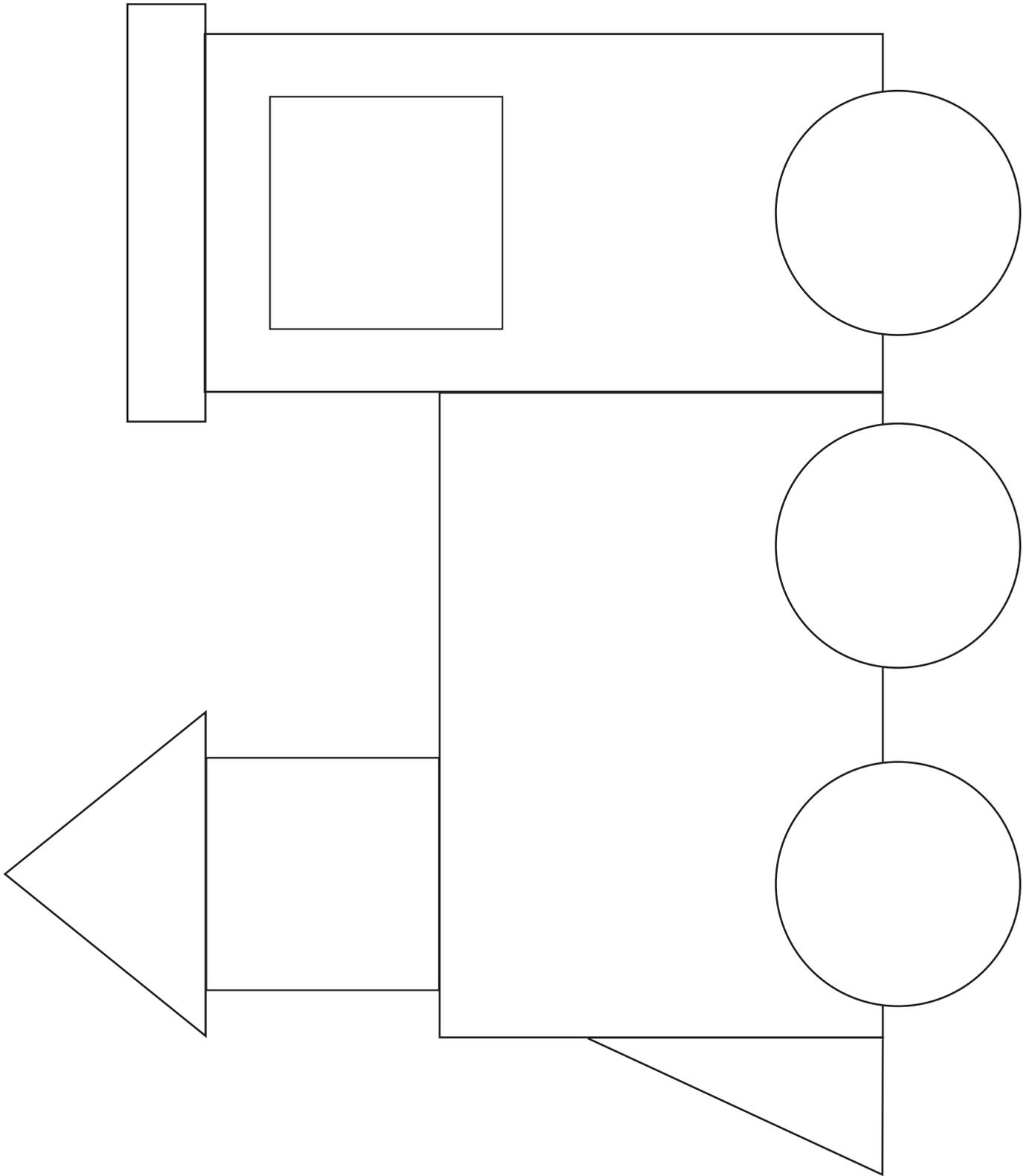
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

TEMPLATE



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

TEMPLATE





TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

COLORING AND MATCHING SHAPES (AGES 0-2)

Help extend children's learning with this shape matching activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Color the shapes. Then match the individual shapes with similar shapes on the train picture.
2. Talk about the colors they used.
3. Talk about the shape of other things in and around your house (plate, books, table, etc.).



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

HEALTHY VS UNHEALTHY FOODS (AGES 3-5)

Help extend children's learning with this sorting activity.

Supplies You'll Need

- Template
- Card Stock
- Children's Scissors
- Glue Stick
- Permanent marker
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. Make single-sided copies of both templates (on card stock) for each child.
2. Put both pages in the bag along with a pair of children's scissors and a glue stick.
3. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

TEMPLATE



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

TEMPLATE

Healthy Foods	Unhealthy Foods



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

HEALTHY VS UNHEALTHY FOODS (AGES 3-5)

Help extend children's learning with this sorting activity.

Follow These Steps

1. Cut out all the photographs of food.
2. Help the child sort them into two piles with healthy foods in one pile and unhealthy foods in another pile.
3. Glue them in the appropriate column on the blank chart—healthy foods in the left column and unhealthy foods in the right column.