

Jillian

Jillian is a four year old girl. She primarily speaks Spanish at home but has been in center-based care since she was 4 months old and understands English quite well. She sometimes struggles with new vocabulary words in English, but usually gets them after she has had several opportunities to hear and apply new vocabulary to her work or play activities in the classroom.

Jillian can match basic shapes of different size and orientation. She is working on consistently labeling oval, trapezoid, and rhombus.

She is able to name the following shapes:

Shape	Fall	Winter	Spring
Circle	X		
Square	X		
Rectangle	X		
Triangle	X		
Oval			
Trapezoid			
Rhombus			
Kite			
Parallelogram			
Pentagon 5 sides			
Hexagon 6 sides			
Heptagon 7 sides			
Octagon 8 side			
Three D			
Cylinder			
Sphere			
Cube			

Jillian is working on being able to represent shapes. She can make shapes with straws, cookie cutters and other manipulatives, but has difficulty drawing shapes. She does not seem to have a clear understanding of how each part is connected to make a whole.

Jillian really struggles with composing Geometric shapes. She can assemble pieces to match pictures when each of the individual components is visually defined, but she really struggles with tangrams that only have the border outlined. Despite this difficulty, she continues to diligently work at completing these tangrams and often does so with her friend Peter during work time.

Jillian is working on learning how to turn shapes to complete simple shape puzzles. When shapes look similar visually even when they are slightly different she tend to use trial and error to see which shapes fit rather than looking closely at the length of the sides.

Kyle

Kyle is 4 years 5 months old. He loves building constructions and is often found playing in the block area. He loves doing trigrams and any activity that involves something being taken apart and then having to be put back together.

Kyle does not often talk at circle. He will sometimes share his ideas in small group or when individually engaged in work time activities with peers. He still seems to have trouble naming all the basic shapes. He has been observed identifying the following shapes consistently, but he is not able to consistently label them.

Shape	Fall	Winter	Spring
Circle	X		
Square	X		
Rectangle			
Triangle			
Oval			
Trapezoid			
Rhombus			
Kite			
Parallelogram			
Pentagon 5 sides			
Hexagon 6 sides			
Heptagon 7 sides			
Octagon 8 side			
Three D			
Cylinder			
Sphere			
Cube			

Kyle loves doing tangrams. He is able to make substitution to complete puzzles when there are not enough of the needed shapes, for example, he recently he used two trapezoids to make a Hexagon. It is easy for him to compose and decompose using shapes. He loves drawing, and makes many shapes in his drawings and combines shapes to represent objects in his environment, but he does not consistently label the shapes. It seems to take him a few minutes to answer. Often by the time he has been given a few hints to scaffold and help him, someone else has already answered and he just repeats what is said.

Kyle is able to compare basic shapes in the environment and notices similarities among shapes but does not articulate the things that are not quite the same although he seems to notice that there are differences.

Kyle is certainly a “slider, flipper and turner.” He has excellent ability to solve problems and preserve until he has done so.

Cameron

Cameron is the youngest of four brothers. He gets bored easily. If he is not fully engaged, he either wants the teacher's attention or becomes the class clown. He is a very capable and persistent learner when he is engaged and challenged.

9.23.08 Cameron identified several shapes today in class using the feely box. He labeled all the basic shapes, as well as a trapezoid, rhombus, kite, parallelogram, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, and octagon. When asked how he had learned so many shapes he said, "My brother taught me at home when it is homework time."

10.10.08 Observed Cameron at the writing table helping Jim learn to write his numbers. Jim was really struggling, but Cameron persevered and assisted Jim in learning how to make a "three."

11.12.08 Cameron explained the difference between a square and rectangle to the group, stating that "the square has 4 equal sides and the rectangle has two sides that are long and two side that are short."

Shape	Fall	Winter	Spring
Circle	X		
Square	X		
Rectangle	X		
Triangle	X		
Oval	X		
Trapezoid	X		
Rhombus	X		
Kite	X		
Parallelogram	X		
Pentagon 5 sides	X		
Hexagon 6 sides	X		
Heptagon 7 sides	X		
Octagon 8 side	X		
Three D	X		
Cylinder	X		
Sphere	X		
Cube	X		

Cameron enjoys the Building Blocks software. Every week he is assigned one of the 1st grade level games to keep his interest up. He whips through the assigned tasks and he is often provided with additional software options.

Cameron has enjoyed doing tangrams in the classroom and has begun doing them without placing the shapes on top of the cards. His knowledge of shapes is evident. He recognizes missing shapes by identify the angle needed to complete a puzzle. He easily composes and decomposes shapes with manipulatives and drawings. He enjoys playing "Guess my Rule" with others, but often get frustrated that his peers ask easy questions.