SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Oombee Cube

(Small Muscle Development Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
The Oombee Cube is made up of a solid plastic base and six colorful, textured silicone shapes including triangle, square, and circle. Each shape is tethered to the base, ensuring that they won't be lost. For added tactile fun and grip, each shape features a simple grooved texture to contrast with the cube's smooth matte surface.	 Purchasing Information Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Are working on using both hands to complete an activity.
- Have a weak or inefficient grasp.
- Are developing the ability to maintain focus on an activity to complete it.
- Enjoy quiet, self-directed activities.
- Tend to throw puzzle pieces.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Engage in sensory play.
- Practice fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination.
- Engage in quiet exploration and self-calming activities.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Compact size and tethered shapes make this shape sorter toy great for home, school, and travel.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Duct tape • Wikki Stix

Positioning

- The Oombee Cube can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.

Basic Play/Use

- For children who need modeling, show them how to manipulate the cube to place the tethered shapes into the correct hole.

Extended Play/Use

- Assemble several shape sorters for the child to explore.

Play/Use with Others

- Take pictures of the shapes and print them on cards. Children take turns drawing cards and placing the corresponding shape into the correct hole in the Oombee Cube.

Simplify It

- Tape several of the shapes into their corresponding hole. Leave only a few tethered shapes to start with.

Contain it

- Shapes are "contained" by tethering them to the cube.

Add Sensory Cues

- Use colored nail polish or a piece of Wikki Stix to highlight the hole in the bead.

Communication Support

- Provide visual symbols or photos both for communication and modeling purposes.

DIY Alternatives

- A DIY shape sorter can be easily made using common household materials like cardboard boxes, lids, and construction paper. The process involves cutting shapes into a lid or box, creating corresponding shapes that fit, and decorating the sorter and shapes.
- DIY Shape Sorter from pbs.org
- This homemade shape sorter from pathstoliteracy.org gives young children or children with multiple disabilities practice with basic concepts, such as size discrimination, while also developing fine motor skills.



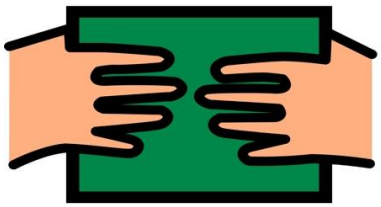
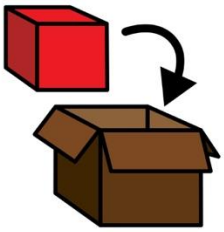
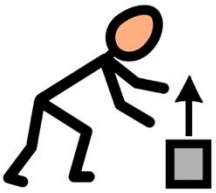
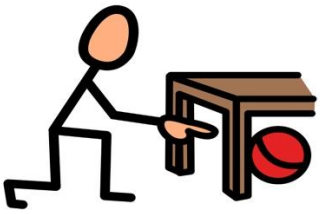
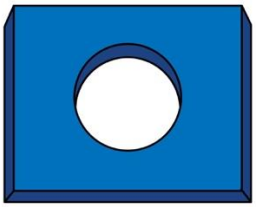
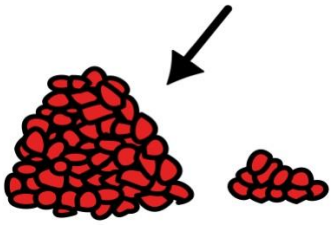
	• Repurpose simple puzzles by attaching puzzle pieces to the puzzle using strips of elastic. Tack one end of the elastic to the piece and the other to the puzzle. Hot glue the tacks securely.  

Additional Considerations:

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.)
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.)
- M: Measurement: Develops and understanding of patterns (3.c.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Hold 	Put in 	Push 
Pull 	Pick up 	Find 
Hole 	Help 	More 
Again 	All done 	

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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