

Geometric Shapes

Six figures in three sets, from the solid shape to the plain outline. Your child stacks them, sorts them, then gives each one a name.

3-6 years

Sensorial

4 sheets to cut out

Heavy paper recommended

What your child practices

A child recognizes a solid square long before recognizing a square drawn on a board. Between the two lies a path this material walks in three steps: the surface, then the thick outline, then the thin line. At each step the shape loses substance and becomes a bit more of an idea. That is how abstraction is built, without a word of explanation.

Prepare the material

1. Print the four sheets on heavy paper, then cut out the cards one by one.
2. Store each set in its own envelope: the solids, the thick outlines, the thin outlines, the names.
3. Bring out only the set of solid shapes, and just three cards to start.

Show once, then step back

1. Place three solid shapes in front of your child and name them slowly, in three steps.
2. The next day, bring out the same shapes as a thick outline and let them find the pairs.
3. Show them once how to lay the solid card exactly on top of the outline.
4. Add the thin-outline set only once the first two pair up without hesitation.
5. The written names come last, once all six shapes are known by heart.

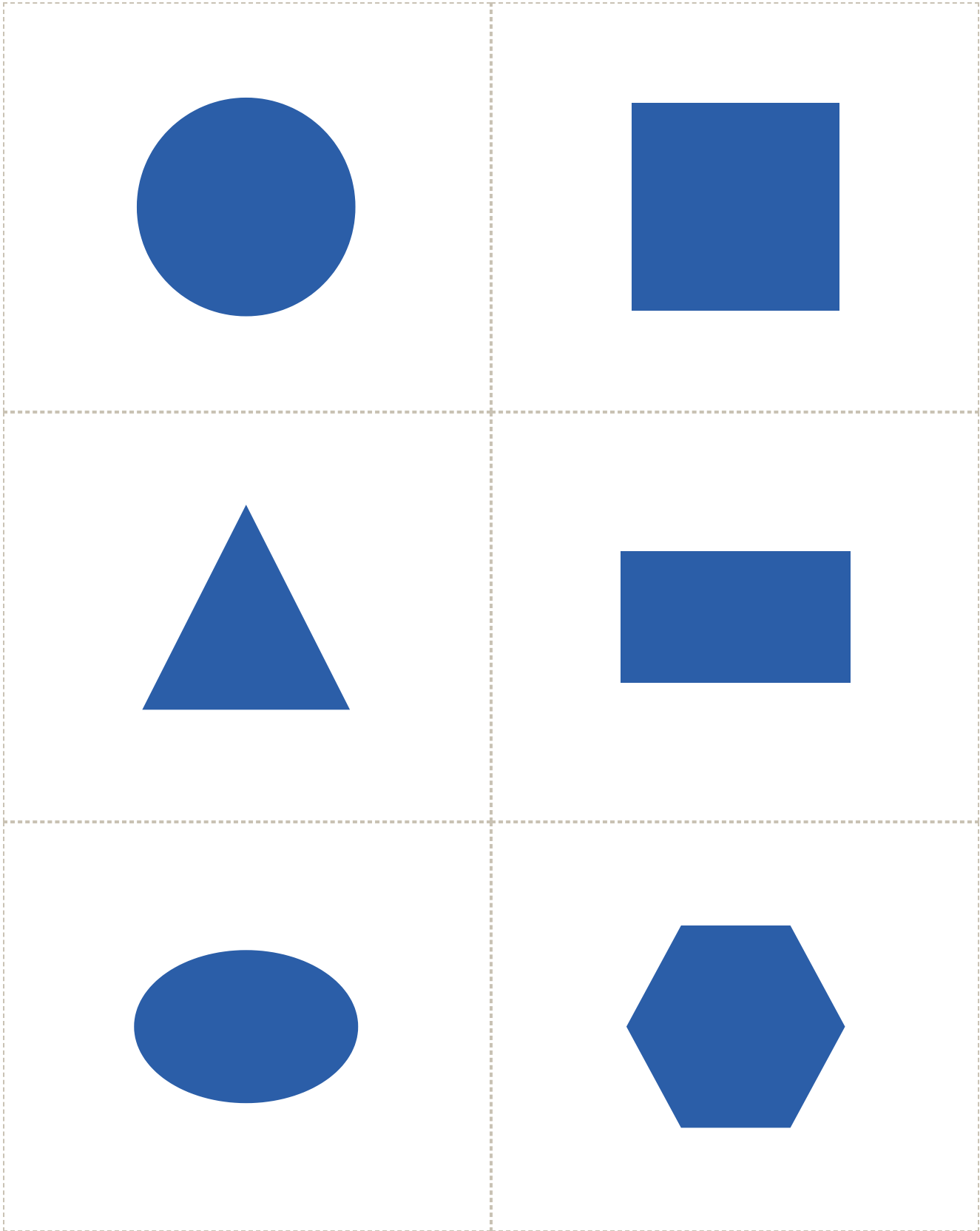
The built-in control of error. It is in the stacking. A solid card set on its outline covers it exactly, edge to edge; set on a different shape, it overhangs or leaves a gap. Your child sees the difference without being told, and starts again.

Once your child feels confident

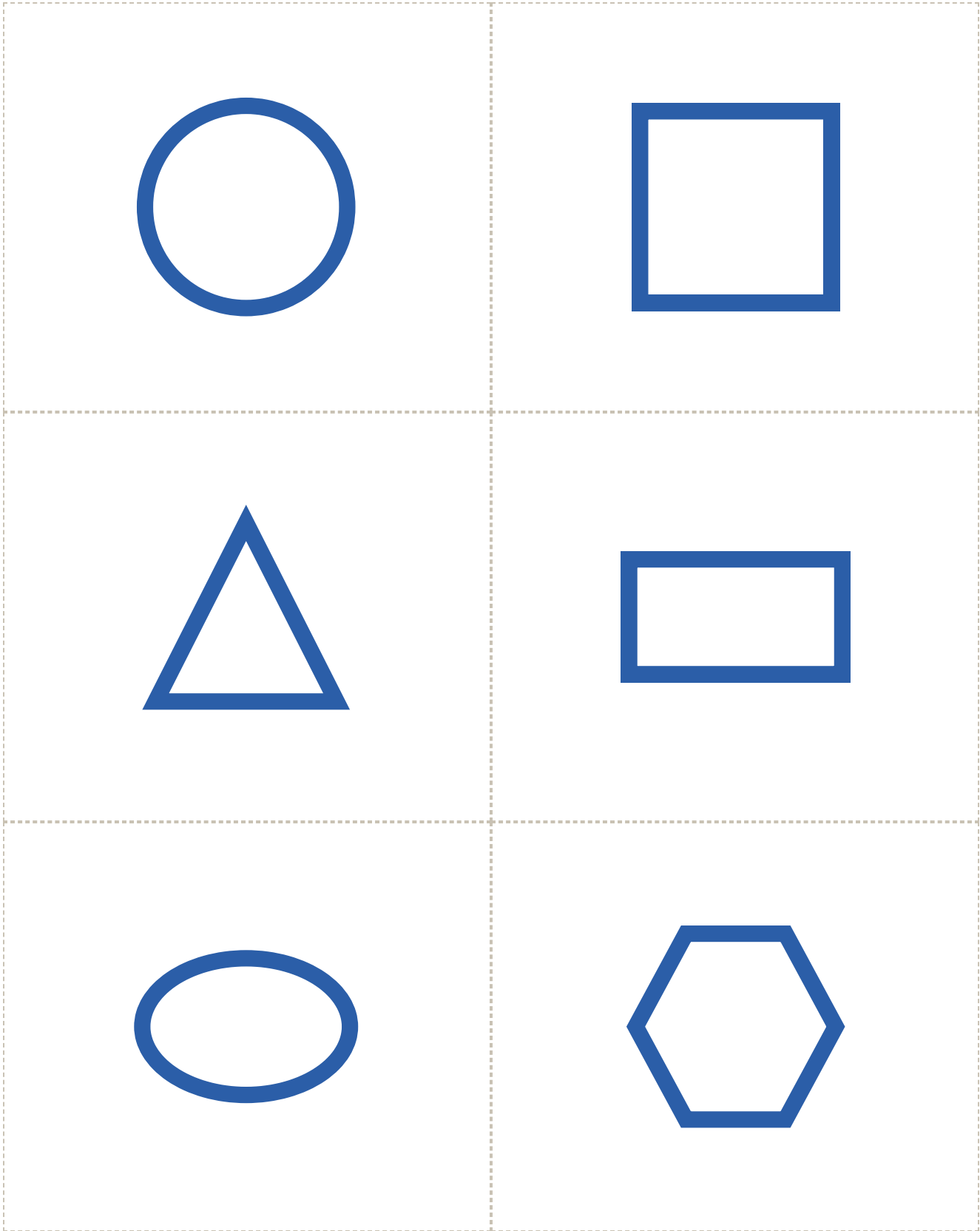
- Find an object around the house for each card: a plate, a window, a book.
- Mix the three sets and rebuild the six families of three cards.
- Trace the thin outline with a finger before naming the shape.

Safety. These cards are small once cut out. They are not right for a child who still puts objects in their mouth. The adult does the cutting, keeps the cards out of reach between sessions, and stays present during the activity.

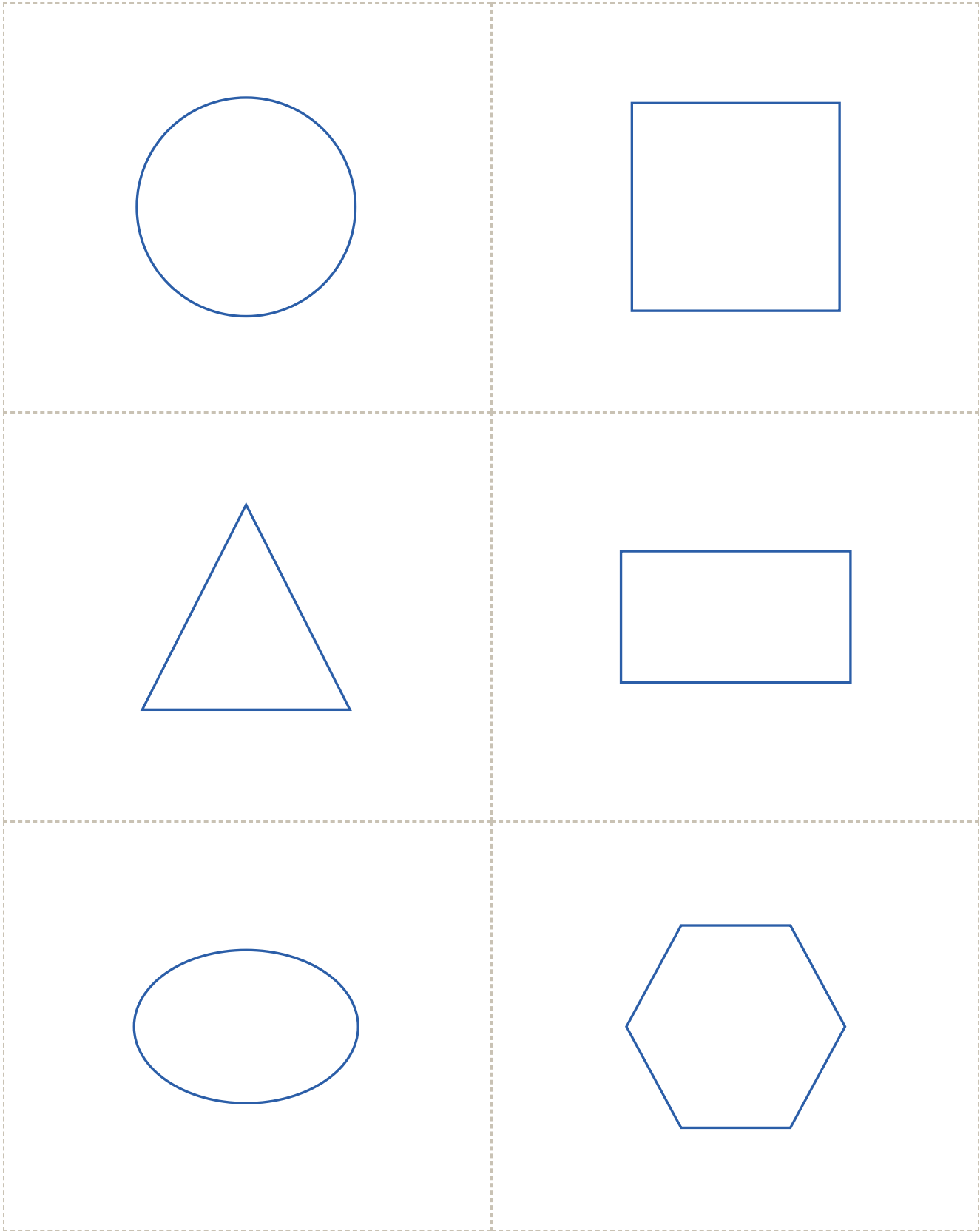
The solid shapes, to cut out square by square. This is the easiest set: the shape is seen at a glance.



The same shapes as a thick outline. There is no more surface, only an outline: the eye has to follow it around.



The same shapes as a thin outline. This is the most abstract set, the one that prepares your child for the shape drawn on a board.



The names, to cut out and place under the shape. Bring them out only once all three sets are well known.

circle	square
triangle	rectangle
oval	hexagon