



DG6



10-15 minutes

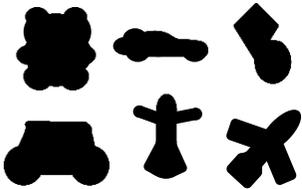
MYSTERY PRESENTS



- To consider possibilities
- To develop self-confidence
- To respect others' opinions
- To develop imagination, creativity and originality



- ❖ Templates/stencils for the presents



- ❖ A roll of wrapping paper
- ❖ A large Christmas tree drawn on or cut out of a A2 sheet of green card, with your prepared 'wrapped presents' stuck on around the bottom of it.
- ❖ A square, rectangle and oval shape cut out of wrapping paper.
- ❖ 1 teddy and 3 other teddies or dolls



Explain to your child that in many parts of the world, children get presents at Christmas time (you can elaborate on this further or not, as you wish, according to your own religion and family traditions, and what you want your child to know, or what they already know, about this festival. If you don't celebrate Christmas in this way, you can use the activity as a way of showing your child how some people in the world do exchange presents for this festival, or leave out the Christmas aspect altogether and just use the wrapped presents for the activity).

Guessing what the present is and who it could be for: Tell your child that they are going to pretend it is Christmas time and that there are some presents under the Christmas tree. Show your child the tree and the presents, and ask your child to guess what's wrapped up in each present. Prompt your child to provide several possible answers for each present. After each answer, ask your child to describe the toy or object that they have imagined - what it's made of, what colour and size it is, how they would play with it or what they would use it for, and so on. Brainstorm ideas about who might like to get this present, and how they would use it.

Story creation: Make up a story about the present together. Take it in turns with your child to contribute an event to the story - they will most likely need support with this. Ask a sequence of questions to help them and repeat back to them their short answers but in longer sentences, to model giving more detail. That way their answers will provide the content of a simple story with a beginning, middle and end. For example, you ask: *Who is the present for?* (They say 'Joe'; you say: *Ah! A little boy called Joe*) *What did he get?* (They say 'a bike'; you say: *He opened his present and it was a bike!*) *How did he feel?* (They say 'happy'; you say: *He was very happy with his new bike*) *What did he do with it?* (They say: 'ride it'; you say: *He rode his bike with his friends in the park*)

Note: For the youngest children or others who don't answer or respond with monosyllables when asked direct questions, use an indirect style of questioning. One way to do this is to pretend that you are asking yourself a question and offer several possibilities while 'thinking' out loud. Modelling your thought process in this way helps children to offer more detailed and imaginative suggestions.



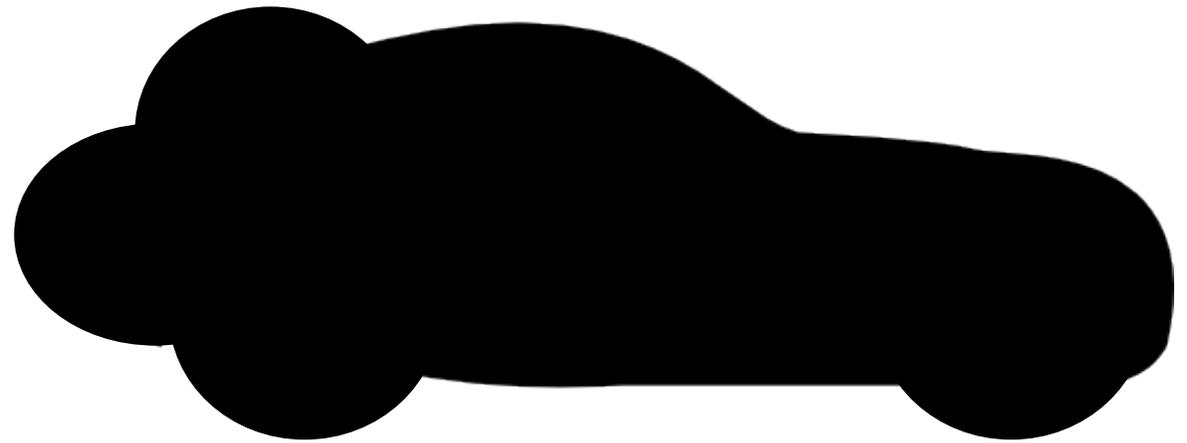
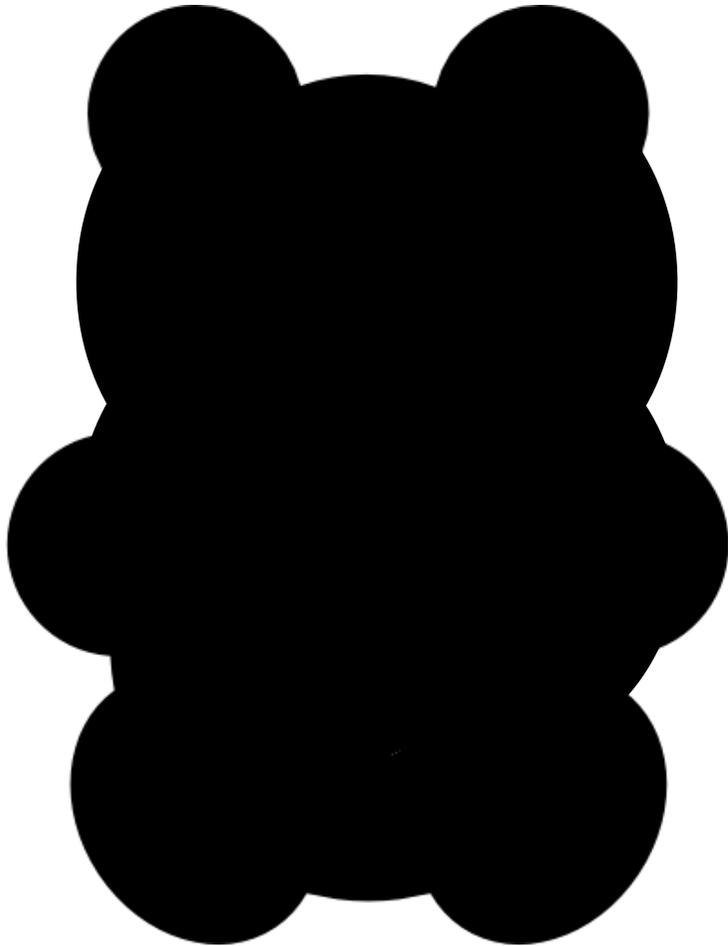
Tell your child that it's Teddy's birthday party. The other teddies/dolls have brought him presents - put out each teddy/doll with one of the 3 shapes in their arms, so that each is carrying a present. Teddy loves trying to guess what is in the wrapping - can you help him? Ask your child to suggest what is in each present. Then talk about their ideas as before: *Do you think Teddy will like that? Why/why not? Would you like it?* And so on.



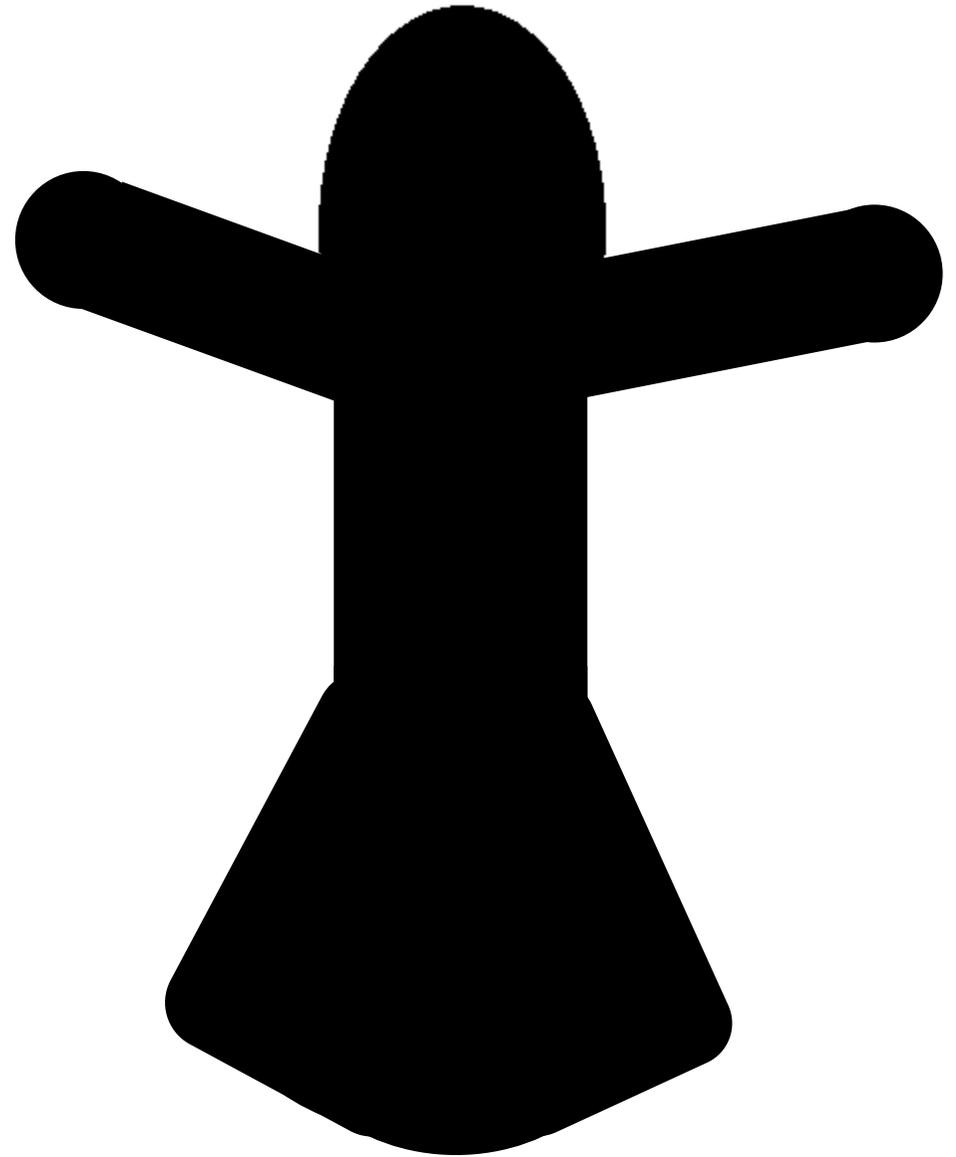
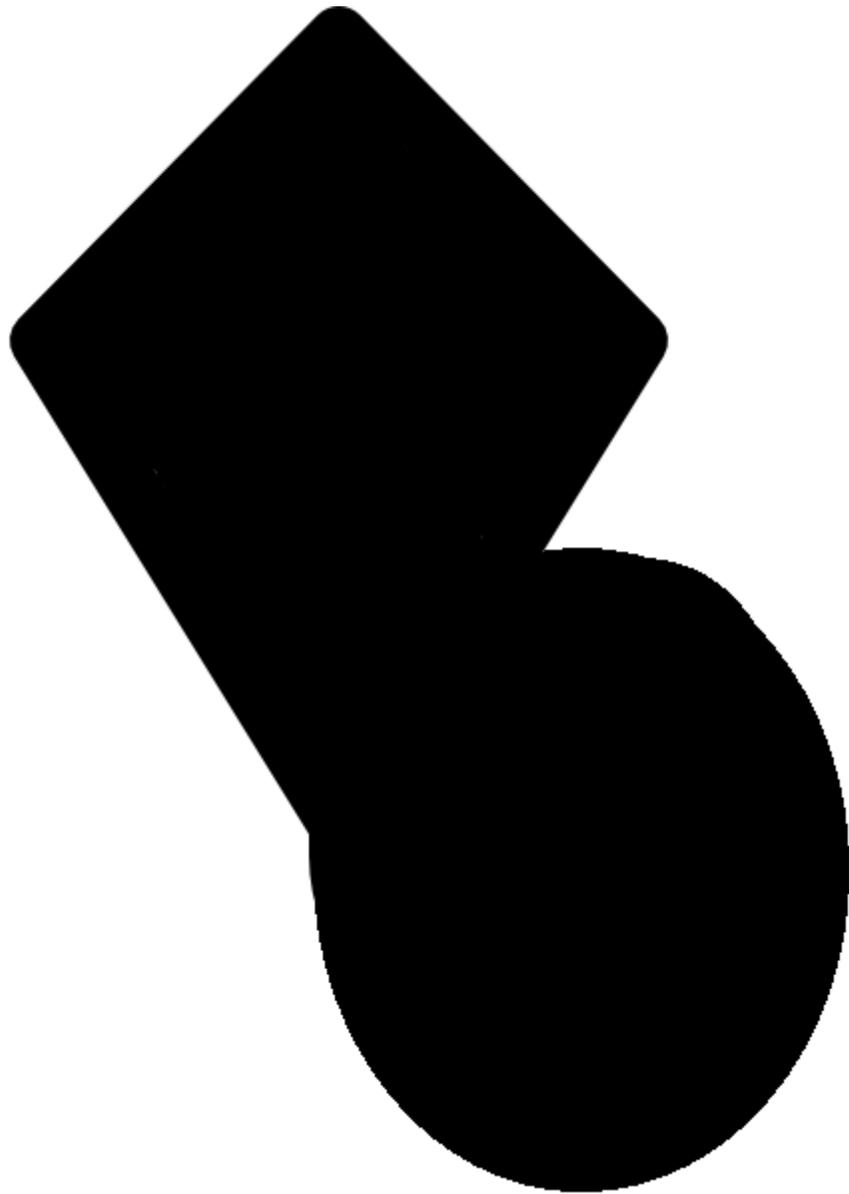
Your child can name at least one toy that might be wrapped inside a distinctively shaped present.
Your child can describe the imaginary toy or object.
Your child can contribute at least one idea to a shared story.



Use these as stencils to draw around on your wrapping paper to make the 'wrapped presents'.
Cut out each shape here, draw around them on your wrapping paper, cut the shapes out of the wrapping paper and then stick them to the bottom part of your Christmas tree (if using). You don't need to cut them out exactly, but the overall shape must be clear to your child, obviously, so that they can imagine what the presents could be.



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