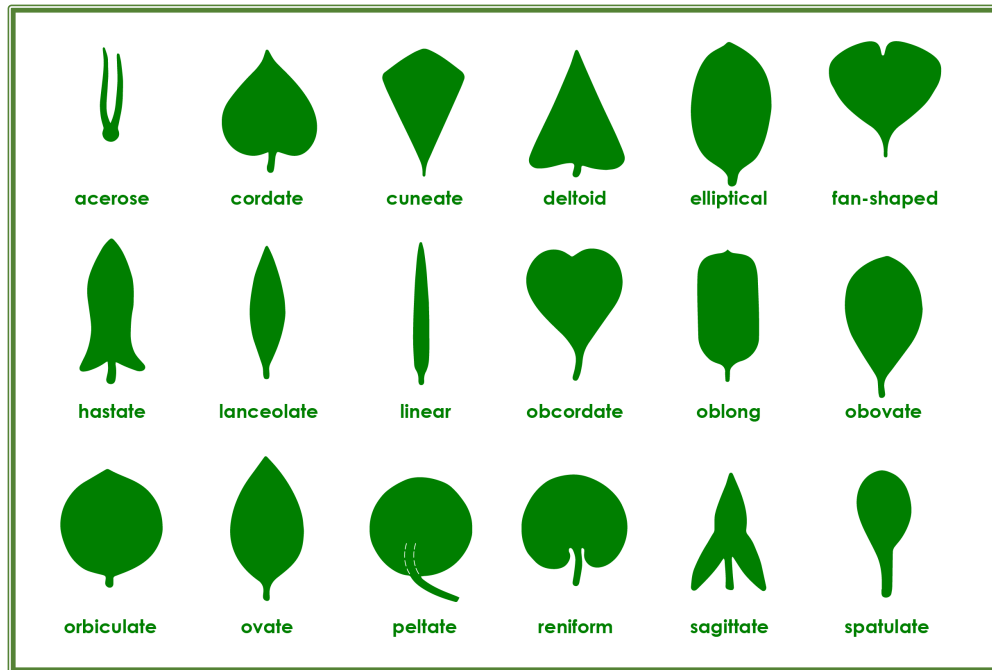


Botany Cabinet Shapes



Three Period Lessons: Ages 3 ½ and up

Directions: Print out the botany cabinet cards below. Choose three contrasting leaf shapes to introduce to your child using a three-period lesson. Over time, you will introduce the child to the names of other shapes in the same manner. The control chart above will help you with any unfamiliar names.

1st Period: Introduce the three shapes one at a time, pointing to and stating the shape's name. For example, "This is the cordate leaf. Cordate. This is a deltoid leaf. Deltoid. This is an oblong leaf. Oblong."

2nd Period: Using active commands, have the child interact with the leaf shapes as a way to reinforce their association between the name and the shape. Begin with the last shape introduced.

"Touch the oblong leaf. Tap the deltoid leaf. Hand me the cordate leaf. Hold the deltoid in your hand." This is the longest stage of the game and should be played until the child is readily able to make the association between the names the shapes without needing verbal or non-verbal cues from the adult.

*****Only move to the third period when you know the child will answer correctly!*****

If the second period has gone on for a while, and the child does not appear confident with the names, smile, and let your child know you will work with them again tomorrow. They mustn't feel as if they have failed in any way. Instead, they are having fun playing a game with the leaf shapes. If you are unable to move to the third period, try again on a different day.

Period 3: Touch each shape and ask, "What leaf shape is this?" The child should respond, "Cordate!"

*On a different day, introduce three new leaves. Before starting, review the leaf shapes your child has already learned. If the child does not remember the name of a leaf shape, include this forgotten leaf in the lesson with two new leaves.

