Application lesson: whole or small group
Objective: students identify shapes that are simple closed curves
Materials: yarn, picture of simple closed curves and curves that are not simple or closed curves

Give each child a 50-centimeter length of yarn. Show a picture of several shapes and have the children model them with yarn.

Tell the students that the first figure is called a simple closed curve. Ask them to make other simple closed curves. Develop the reason they are called simple closed curves. (No part of the shape touches any other part)

The other two figures in the picture are not simple closed curves.

Ask the children why they think the other two are not simple closed curves. (One crosses over itself, and the other does not begin and end at the same place.)

Challenge the children to make other shapes that are not simple closed curves.

Ask for a definition of a simple closed curve. (A continuous line that begins and ends at the same point and does not cross over itself.)

Extension: Create art designs with simple closed curves and curves that are not simple.