

## Did you know...



For babies, learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters. Talking about and playing with shapes with your young child is part of their learning experience. You might say, "Feel this big ball. It is round!" Later, talking about letters and the sounds they make will help them recognize individual letters.

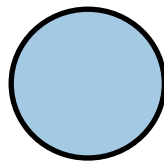
### Level 1

Point out shapes around the house



### Level 2

Teach names of shapes



### Level 3

Look for shapes in letters

Q P  
q p

## Here's how...

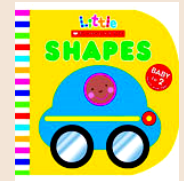


- Go on a scavenger hunt to look for shapes around the house or in the community. Take a box or bag and collect round things, long things, blue things, etc.
- Sing the alphabet song so your child gets familiar with the names of letters. Sing it slow enough so they can hear the "LMNOP" section of the alphabet (not "ellamenapee").
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often.

## Read



### Little Scholastic Shapes, by Justine Smith



Smooth square, bumpy circle, scratchy triangle—

This bold and bright board book shows the shapes within everyday objects for babies and toddlers to feel and touch.

Look for more Little Scholastic board books at your library.



## Choosing Books



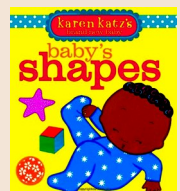
*Shapes, Shapes, Shapes*, by Tana Hoban

*National Geographic Little Look and Learn: Shapes!* by National Geographic Kids



*Shapes*, by Orla Kiely

*Baby's Shapes*, by Karen Katz



*ABC Insects*, by American Museum of Natural History

*Goodnight Moon ABC Book: An Alphabet Book*, by Margaret Wise Brown

## Talk



Board books with texture: Encourage your child to touch the pages of the book. Talk to her about what she is feeling under her fingers, and describe it by saying “It is bumpy, smooth, scratchy, rough, or sparkly.” Children need to hear describing words to connect with their world.

## Write



Encourage your older toddler to make scribbles using non-toxic crayons or chalk. Choose larger crayons and thick sidewalk chalk, as these are easier for little hands to grasp. See if your toddler can copy you as you draw lines that go across, and lines that go up and down.

## Sing



### Shape Song

*(to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")*

A circle's like a ball,  
A circle's like a ball,  
Round and round  
It never stops.  
A circle's like a ball!

A square is like a box,  
A square is like a box,  
It has four sides,  
They are the same.  
A square is like a box!

A triangle has 3 sides,  
A triangle has 3 sides,  
Up the mountain,  
Down, and back.  
A triangle has 3 sides!

A rectangle has 4 sides,  
A rectangle has 4 sides,  
Two are long, and two are short,  
A rectangle has 4 sides!

## Play



### What Shape Is This?

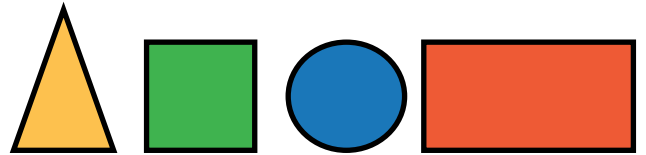
*(to the tune of "Do You Know the Muffin Man?")*

Oh, do you know what shape this is,  
*(hold up a shape)*

What shape this is, what shape this is?

Oh, do you know what shape this is,  
I'm holding in my hand.

*Repeat with different shapes.*



Hear the tune at  
[www.kidsongs.com/lyrics/the-muffin-man.html](http://www.kidsongs.com/lyrics/the-muffin-man.html)

## At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free “storytimes online” every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone. Visit today!

**DayByDayID.org**  
STORYTIMES ONLINE