

## 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.

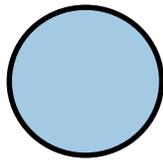
### Level 1

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...

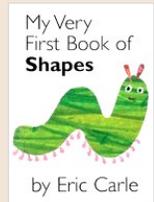


- ✦ Read shape and alphabet books together. There is a wide variety of alphabet books to interest your child.
- ✦ Point out and name letters while you are out and about in the community. Young children often recognize the M for *McDonalds* or the T in *Toys R Us* because it is meaningful to them.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.

## Read



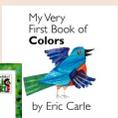
### ***My Very First Book of Shapes, by Eric Carle***



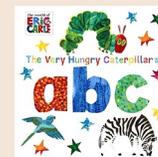
This colorful board book features ten shapes that your child can match to similar shaped objects. The half pages create the opportunity to make reading this book more like a game to play together.

Some of the shapes are more abstract than others, so start with concrete shapes like circles, squares, and triangles.

Other board books by this author:



Coming in May 2016:



*The Very Hungry Caterpillar's ABC*

## Choosing Books

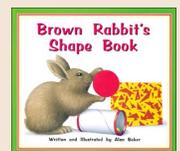


### **More books about shapes...**

*Shapes, Shapes, Shapes*, by Tana Hoban

*Color Zoo*, by Lois Ehlert

*Brown Rabbit's Shape Book*, by Alan Baker



*The Shape of Things*, by Dayle Ann Dodds

*Mouse Shapes*, by Ellen Stoll Walsh

*Do You See Shapes?* Rookie Toddler by Scholastic

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



## Talk



Building your child's vocabulary is important to their success as readers when they get older. Playing games to build vocabulary is a fun way to do that. This egg activity is a good way to learn colors, numbers, and matching.

Put colorful plastic eggs in a basket and have your child place them in an empty egg carton. Ask them what color they chose, or ask them to put all the \_\_\_ ones in the carton. When they are ready you can ask them to put a certain number of eggs in the carton, or take that amount out. You can come up with ideas of your own for teaching concepts.

## Write



Learning shapes is one of the basic skills children need to know before they learn letters of the alphabet. Big body movements help children learn how shapes are drawn. Place masking tape in different shapes on the floor. Help your children walk on the lines and label the shape as they do it- "You are walking on a square" (or circle, rectangle, etc.).

## Play



**A word about the ABC song...**

**A B C D E F G, H I J K ElemenOPea  
Q R S, T U V, W, X, Y and Z**

Parents often think their child "knows" the alphabet because they can sing the ABC song and/or recite the alphabet, or because the child can point to the letters in order while singing or saying the alphabet.

Being able to do those things can show that a child has some knowledge about the alphabet, but children with good letter knowledge can identify letters in any order.

## Sing



### Shape Song

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

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



Hear tune at <http://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php>

## 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.

**DayByDayID.org**  
STORYTIMES ONLINE