



For ages
**Birth
to 2**

The Bookworm



From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

December 2010

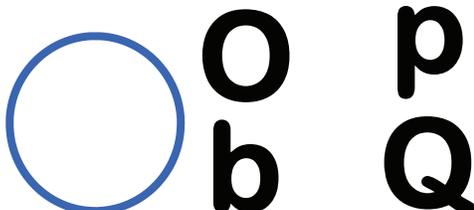
Babies determine shapes and objects at an early age

Did you know that everyday objects around the house are learning tools for your baby? Babies are trying to make sense of their world, and one way they do this is to look, taste, listen to, and feel objects. This helps them sort the objects into categories, such as round objects/soft objects; and to tell one object from another, such a blanket from a ball.

There is a lot going on in the heads of babies! Babies recognize objects by forming a picture in their heads based on the features of the object. They tend to pay attention to some features more than others. Babies as young as four months use **size** and **shape** to recognize objects. As they get older, they use **color** and **pattern** to help them tell objects apart.

How does this relate to early literacy?

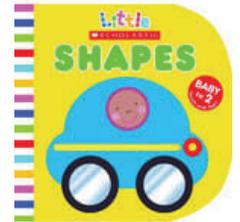
For babies, learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters. Talking about and playing with shapes with your young child is part of their learning experience. You might say, "Feel this big ball. It is round!" Later, talking about letters and the sounds they make will help them recognize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



Book of the Month

Shapes, by Justine Smith (Little Scholastic series)

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:



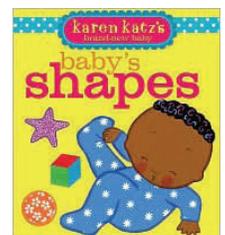
More shape books your baby or toddler will love:

- My Shapes/Mis Formas*, Rebecca Emberley
- A Circle Here, A Square There*, David Diehl
- Black and White*, Tana Hoban
- Color Zoo*, Lois Ehlert
- Freight Train*, Donald Crews
- All Sorts of Shapes*, Hannah Reidy
- My Very First Book of Shapes*, Eric Carle

Ship Shapes, Stella Blackstone

New in 2010:

Baby's Shapes (Karen Katz New Baby series), Karen Katz



More fun with *Shapes*

Talk about it... Encourage your child to touch the pages of the book. Talk to her about what she is feeling under her fingers, and try to get her to repeat after you. "Oh, feel how bumpy! Can you say bumpy?"

Around the house... Go on a scavenger hunt with your toddler. Take a box or bag and look for round things, blue things, soft things, etc. Talk about the objects as your child puts them in the box.

Never too early... Teach your toddler to recognize his/her name, from the shapes of the letters and sounds in his name.

- Put her name on her bedroom door, toys, cup, drawings, blanket, coat hook, etc.
- Write his name in scented crayons or markers and let him smell it.
- Write it in her favorite color.
- Write his name next to his photograph.



Rhyme for Babies

Patty Cake

Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man.
(clap baby's hands in rhythm to rhyme)

Bake me a cake as fast as you can.

Roll it,
(roll baby's hands around each other)

Pat it,
(clap baby's hands)

Mark it with a "B"
(trace letter B on baby's tummy)

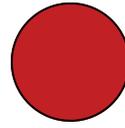
And throw it in the oven
for Baby and Me!
(raise baby's arms
above her head)



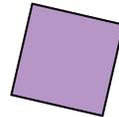
Action Song for Toddlers

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!



What your library can do for you...

Your library has lots of books, DVDs, and music CDs to help celebrate the holidays!

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2010

