



The Bookworm Ages 0-2

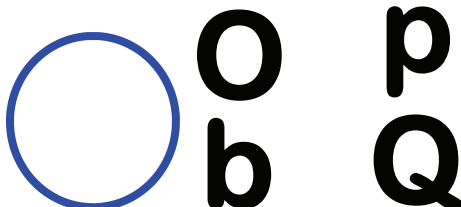
From your Local Library and Idaho's Read to Me Program ♦ January, 2009

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.

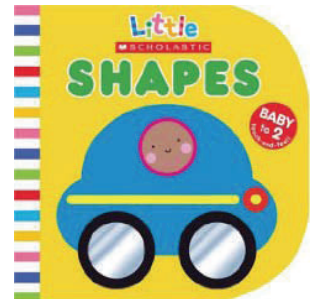
How does this relate to early literacy? For babies, learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters. Talking about and playing with shapes with your young child is part of their learning experience. You might say, "Feel this big ball. It is round!" Later, talking about letters and the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



Book of the Month

Shapes by Justine Smith (Little Scholastic)

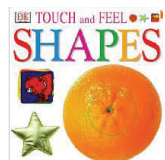
Smooth square, bumpy circle, scratchy triangle— This bold and bright board book shows the shapes within everyday objects for babies and toddlers to feel and touch.



Look for more *Little Scholastic* board books at your library:

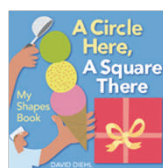
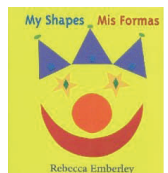


More books babies/toddlers will love:



DK Touch and Feel books: *Shapes, Home (El Hogar), 123, Playtime, Bathtime, Bedtime, Toys, Mealtime*

Author Rebecca Emberley, Bilingual books: *My Shapes/Mis Formas, My Colors/Mis Colores, My Toys/Mis Juguetes, My Room/Mi Cuarto*



A Circle Here, A Square There, David Diehl

Black and White, Tana Hoban



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

"Touch"

(Touch each part of baby as named in the poem)

Touch your nose,
Touch your chin,
That's the way the game begins.
Touch your eyes,
Touch your knees,
Now pretend you're going to sneeze!
ACHOO!
Touch your hair,
Touch one ear,
Touch your two red lips right here.
Touch your elbows where they bend,
That is how this game will end.

Action Song for Toddlers

"You Put Red In"

(sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

(use colored scarves or articles of clothing for each color)

You put red in *(hold red scarf/clothing and move arm away from you)*

You take red out *(hold red scarf and move arm back towards you)*

You put red in and you shake it all about. *(shake the red scarf)*

You do the hokey pokey and turn yourself around *(clap hands, turn in a circle)*

That's what it's all about! (put hands on hips and bounce)

Continue with other verses as you change colored scarves...

You can hear the tune and watch a video at
http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey_pokey.php



What your library can do for you...

Your librarian can help you find more books and activities to help your child learn about shapes and letters!

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