



For ages  
**Birth  
to 2**

# The Bookworm



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

March 2014

## Shapes and the ABCs

For babies and toddlers, talking about and playing with shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters.

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.

As your child begins to understand language, you might say, "Feel this big ball. It is round!" "Your sandwich has four sides, see 1-2-3-4."

Toddlers can begin learning about shapes and colors. Read "shape" books with your child and point out shapes around the house and outside. "Your book is a square shape. See, it has four straight sides, 1-2-3-4."

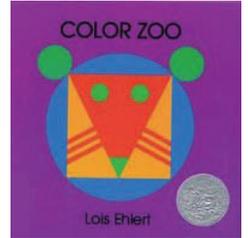
Children that recognize shapes and are able to tell the difference between them have an easier time learning about letters. *Letter Knowledge* is one of the six early literacy skills, and learning about shapes is the first step!

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Point out shapes around the house	Teach names of shapes	Look for shapes in letters

## Book of the Month

*Color Zoo*, by Lois Ehlert

This book takes nine shapes and nine animals, and 16 shades of color to create a color zoo. Bright, basic designs on each page stand out so children can identify shapes in an all new way.



Lois Ehlert has written over 50 books for children! The simple pictures and bright shapes make her books great for sharing with babies and toddlers. Check out some of her other books at your local library.

*Color Farm*

*Growing Vegetable Soup*

*Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On*

*Eating the Alphabet*

*Planting a Rainbow*

And many more!



## More fun with *Color Zoo...*

**Bathtime fun...** Cut shapes from clean kitchen sponges and let your little one play with them while she takes a bath. Make soap prints with the sponges on the sides of the tub.

**Out and about...** 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 bag.

**Around the house...** Encourage your child to make shapes with cookie dough, clay, or play-doh. Here's an easy play-doh recipe you can make at home:

Mix: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons cream of tartar, and 1 to 2 tablespoons vegetable oil.

Slowly stir in 2 cups of colored water (use food coloring to color). Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until it turns into dough. Form it into a ball and store it in a covered container.

## Rhyme for Toddlers

Red bird, red bird, high in a tree.  
How many red things can you see?

*(Help your child point to red things in room)*

Blue bird, blue bird, high in a tree.  
How many blue things can you see?

*(Help your child point to blue things in room)*

Continue with other colors...

## Rhyme for Babies

'Round and 'round the garden,  
goes the teddy bear.

*(make circles on baby's tummy)*

One step, two steps,  
*(climb fingers up baby's arm)*

Tickle under there!

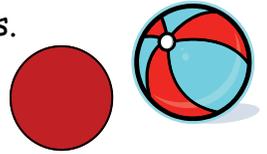
*(tickle lightly under arm or chin)*

## 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!



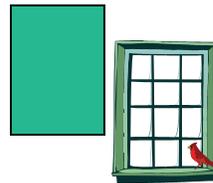
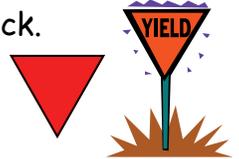
A square is like a box, a square is like a box,  
It has four sides, they are the same.



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...

Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!

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 2014

