



Playing with Shapes

Geometry involves shape, size, space, position, direction, and movement. Young children learn about these by interacting with the physical world.

Some Books

My Shapes/Mis formas, by Rebecca Emberley

So Many Circles, So Many Squares, by Tana Hoban

Mouse Shapes, by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Color Zoo, by Lois Ehlert

Where's Spot? by Eric Hill

I Spy Shapes in Art, by Lucy Micklethwait

Some Activities

1. Move and dance with your child to help learn about their position in space. Crawl and climb in and out and over and under and around objects.
2. Talk about what you see. Look at all the *circles* on your shirt! Those unit blocks in a row make a long *rectangle*. Do you think the cat is hiding *under* the couch? Or *behind* the door?
3. Cut food into different shapes. Do you want your sandwich in squares or triangles today? Let's eat all round foods for our snack! I'm giving you five rectangles of cheese to eat.
4. Puzzles and shape boxes are great for manipulating shapes. Use words like *turn*, *flip*, or *slide* when helping your child decide where to put the puzzle piece.
5. Build with blocks with your child. Use the correct words for the shapes. Do you want more triangles for this side, or do you want columns? How many unit blocks do you need for your tower? Tell me how you made that long bridge stay up. (Remember, when parents gently guide their children's play, the learning grows!)
6. Draw pictures with different shapes, or make collages with cut-out shapes. Draw a shape and make something out of it. Then draw a shape for your child and see if they can make something.
7. When you are looking at shapes with your child, help them trace over them and talk about the different angles and shapes. Point out the three sides and three angles (or corners) of a triangle. Look for other shapes that are the same and different.
8. In addition to playing with blocks, allow your child to play with boxes and other containers. See that things can fit together or inside each other. Use cardboard tubes and other materials to make pretend machines and buildings.
9. Cut play dough into shapes. Your child can make little balls and bigger balls. Make pretend rectangle crackers. Make pretend pizzas with circles of pepperoni and triangles of cheese.
10. Play with tangrams to make a variety of other shapes. Start with the simplest shapes. Have your child make any shape with tangrams and trace it, then see if you can figure out how to put the tangrams back in the outline!



Fun with Math & Science

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