



For ages  
**Birth  
to 2**

# The Bookworm



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

**December 2012**

## 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."

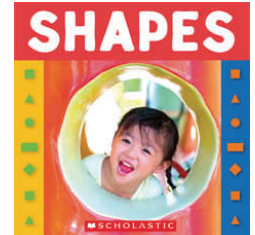
Toddlers can begin learning about shapes and colors. Read "shape" books with your child and point out shapes around the house and outside. "Your book is a square shape. See, it has four straight sides, 1-2-3-4."

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

### *Shapes*, a Scholastic Beginning Concepts book



We can find shapes all around us. Children see circles, triangles, and other shapes in familiar objects, and discover that our world is shape-shaped!

Look for other Scholastic Beginning Concept books, available in English and Spanish:



### More books about shape:

*Color Zoo*, by Lois Ehlert

*Flaptastic Shapes*, by Charlie Gardner

*Shapes in My House*, by Kristin Eck

*Colors and Shapes*, DK Publishing Touch and Feel series

*Baby's Shapes*, by Karen Katz

*Spot's First Shapes*, by Eric Hill

*Mouse Shapes*, by Ellen Stoll Walsh

### New in 2012:

*Shapes*, by Simon Basher

*Shapes!* National Geographic Little Kids Look and Learn series

You can find lots of other shape books at your local library!

## More fun with *Shapes*

**Book talk...** This book does not have a lot of words. As you read with your baby/toddler use describing words and trace with your finger, or help your toddler trace the shapes with his finger. Point to the pictures and talk about what the children are doing. "Look, this boy is stacking blocks. Blocks have rectangle shapes. We played with your blocks this morning!"

**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.

**Write on...** Encourage your older toddler to make scribbles using non-toxic crayons or chalk. Choose larger crayons and thick sidewalk chalk, as these are easier for little hands to grasp. See if your toddler can copy you as you draw lines that go across, and lines that go up and down.



## 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)*



## Song to Sing With Your Toddler

### Hokey Pokey Shapes

*Cut out a circle, square, triangle, rectangle, and oval from thick paper. Help your child find the correct shape for each verse and do the motions with him.*

You put your circle in,  
You take your circle out,  
You put your circle in  
and you shake it all about.  
You do the hokey pokey and you turn  
yourself around.  
That's what it's all about!

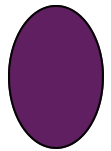
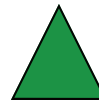
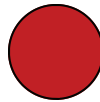
You put your square in...

You put your triangle in...

*Keep going!*

Challenge: Make the shapes different colors.

Put your red circle in...



### 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 2012

