

Did you know...



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.

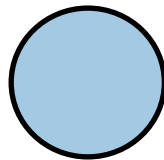
Level 1

Point out shapes around the house



Level 2

Teach names of shapes



Level 3

Look for shapes in letters

Q P
q p

Here's how...

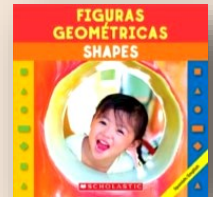


- ✦ Read shape and alphabet books together. There is a wide variety of alphabet books to interest your child.
- ✦ Point out and name letters while you are out and about in the community. Young children often recognize the M for *McDonalds* or the T in *Toys R Us* because it is meaningful to them.
- ✦ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often.
- ✦ Go on a scavenger hunt to look for shapes around the house or in the community. Take a box or bag and collect round things, long things, blue things, etc.

Read



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:



Choosing Books



More books about shapes...

Shapes, Shapes, Shapes, by Tana Hoban

Color Zoo, by Lois Ehlert

Brown Rabbit's Shape Book, by Alan Baker

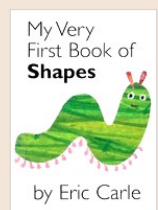
The Shape of Things, by Dayle Ann Dodds

Mouse Shapes, by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Do You See Shapes? Rookie Toddler by Scholastic

National Geographic Little Look and Learn: Shapes! by National Geographic Kids

My Very First Book of Shapes, by Eric Carle



Talk



Shape books typically do 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!"

Write



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.



Play



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)



Sing



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: If your older toddler can easily identify the shapes, make the shapes different colors. "Put your red circle in..."

See a video of the Hokey Pokey here:

<http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey-pokey.php>

At your library...



You can read hundreds of free online books with your child by visiting your local library's website and clicking on Tumblebooks™.

