

## Did you know ...



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

Babies and toddlers are trying to make sense of their world. One way they do this is to look, taste, listen to, and feel objects. This helps them to sort the objects into categories, such as round objects or soft objects, and to tell one object from another, such as a blanket from a ball. Once they are toddlers, they can begin learning about shapes and colors.

Children who recognize shapes and are able to tell the difference between them have an easier time learning about letters.

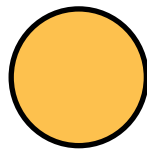
### Level 1

Point out shapes around the house



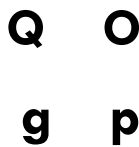
### Level 2

Teach names of shapes



### Level 3

Look for shapes in letters



## Here's how ...

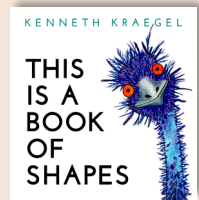


- ✦ Read shape books together. There are a wide variety of shape board books to interest your child.
- ✦ Go on a scavenger hunt to look for shapes around the house or in the community. Take a box or bag and collect round things, long things, blue things, etc.
- ✦ Point out shapes in familiar objects. "Your sandwich is a square shape. See, it has four straight sides, 1-2-3-4."

## Read



### *This Is a Book of Shapes* by Kenneth Kraegel



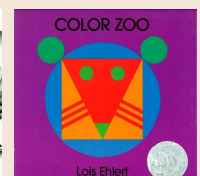
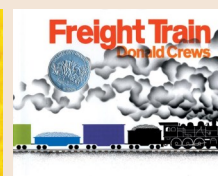
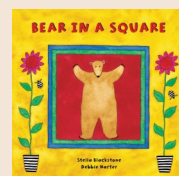
First comes the circle. Then comes the square and the triangle. Then comes the ... *emu?!* This silly book will not only help teach your little one their shapes, but will have them giggling and asking for you to read it over and over again.

## Choosing Books



### More shape books ...

- Baby's Shapes* by Karen Katz
- Bear in a Square* by Stella Blackstone
- Black and White* by Tana Hoban
- Brown Rabbit's Shapes* by Alan Baker
- Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
- Freight Train* by Donald Crews
- Llama Llama Shapes* by Anna Dewdney
- Look, Look Again* by Agnese Baruzzi
- Mouse Shapes* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- My Shapes / Mis formas* by Rebecca Emberley
- My Very First Book of Shapes* by Eric Carle
- Shape by Shape* by Suse MacDonald

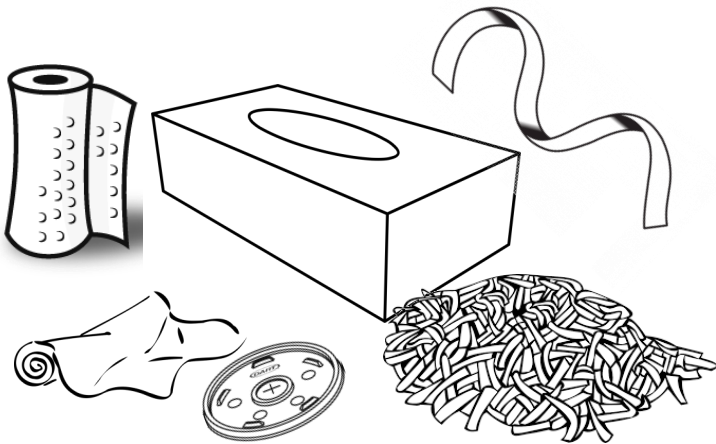




Don't throw away those empty tissue boxes—turn them into mystery boxes!

**Babies:** Put scarves, ribbons, crumpled tissue paper, bubble wrap, fabric scraps, etc., inside the tissue box and let baby pull them out and explore. Be sure that none of the items can fit all the way inside baby's mouth. Talk to baby about colors, textures, sizes, and shapes using lots of describing words (soft, fuzzy, bumpy, red, inside, outside, under...).

**Toddlers:** Put objects that have something in common inside the box and let your toddler pull them out to explore. Change objects frequently. Ideas for different boxes: Shapes (all different shapes or all of one shape, such as "rectangles"), colors (all different colors or all of one color, such as "red"), textures, etc.



### Sometimes

Sometimes I am tall. (*stand tall*)

Sometimes I am small. (*bend knees*)

Sometimes I am very, very tall. (*stand on tiptoes*)

Sometimes I am very, very small. (*crouch down*)

Sometimes tall, (*stand tall*)

Sometimes small. (*bend knees*)

Sometimes neither tall nor small.

(*Stand normally or sit down*)



### Rock-a-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby, on the tree top;

(*rock baby in your arms*)

When the wind blows, the cradle will rock,

(*sway your arms from side to side*)

When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall

(*drop your head*)

And down will come baby, cradle and all.

Hear this tune at:

[www.thelearninggroove.com](http://www.thelearninggroove.com)

(under "Lyrics and Activities" then "song title")



### At your library ...



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