



Did You Know?

Did you know that recognizing and describing different shapes are skills that your child needs to be ready for kindergarten? It's the beginning of future math skills, especially in geometry, but it lays the foundation for other important skills as well. Through recognizing and describing shapes, your child will learn vocabulary needed to recognize and describe letters, too. The letter "b" can be described as one straight line and a circle. Children who know the language used to describe shapes will be able to identify letters, too!

Books and Shapes

Reading books with your child plays an important part in their development. Not only is it a special time for you and your little one to spend together, it also promotes many skills that will help your child learn in school. Visit your local library with your child. Here are some recommendations for books that teach about shapes:

When a Line Bends, a Shape Begins by Rhonda Gowler Greene

Shapes, Shapes, Shapes by Tana Hoban

Round is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh

The Shape of Things by Dayle Ann Dodds

At Home

Gather small items from around your home that are different shapes (lid, juice box, book) and place them on a table. Talk with your child about the different shapes and help them describe the characteristics of each (round, straight, the number of sides). Count the sides together. Help your child sort the shapes so that they are grouped together by the same characteristics.

Put the items in a pillowcase and have your child find a shape without looking at it. Ask them to describe it and guess what shape it is. Your turn!

While You Are Out

In the grocery store: As you walk down the aisles, challenge your child to find as many rectangles, squares, circles, or triangles as they can. Can they find a sphere? (Try the canned goods aisle!)

In waiting rooms: Look through a magazine with your child. What shapes can they find?

In the car or bus: Play "What Shape am I Describing?" Tell your child that you are thinking of a shape that is round, has three sides that are straight, has four sides that are straight, or all the same size, etc. Ask them to name the shape and find it either inside the car/bus or outside.

Activities have been adapted from the Family Child Care Mentoring Project, Somerset County Judy Center

School Readiness Matters

Describing, matching, and naming shapes are three examples of the math skills that are assessed for school readiness. For more information about school readiness, what it means, and how you as a parent can support your child, please follow the links below:

[School Readiness](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))
[Learning about Math](#)