



The Shape of Things

By Dayle Ann Dodds

The colorful illustrations in this book help children to learn about all of the different shapes that are a part of their world. Simple rhymes help reinforce the concept of different shapes.

BEFORE READING:

- Show your child the front and back of the book. Ask him to guess what the book is about.
- Ask him to name the different shapes he sees on the front cover.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or your child would like to talk about.
- Ask him questions so that he can connect what is happening in the book to things he already knows about. Try some of these ideas:
 - What shape is the home that we live in?
 - What other things can you think of that are shaped in a triangle?
 - Where else have you seen something that is a circle?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask him things like:

- What color was the triangle?
- What shape was the kite?
- What was your favorite color?

Read this book several times to your child. Hearing the same story again and again helps him learn new words and understand the ideas he hears better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with your child after reading "The Shape of Things."



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MATH AND SCIENCE

Find pairs of objects of different shapes and sizes around the house. Try things like bowls from the kitchen, towels from the bathroom, empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls, or anything else you can think of. Put the pairs next to each other in front of your child. Ask him to tell you which one is bigger and which one is smaller.

READING READINESS

Ask your child to point to the shapes in the illustrations as you read the words. You can also have him point to the other parts of the illustration as you read. For example, have him point to the ocean or the seagull on the page as you read those words.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Hold different-shaped blocks or cut-out shapes in your hand and sing, "Do you know what shape this is, what shape this is, what shape this is? Do you know what shape this is I'm holding in my hand?" Use the tune The Muffin Man as you sing.

MOTOR SKILLS

Make your own train together. Take turns being the engine and the caboose. Place your hands on his shoulders or his on your waist and lead one another around the house. Move forwards and backwards as a train and don't forget to make train noises.

THINKING SKILLS

Ask your child what he thinks he would need to fly a kite. Talk about the materials he would use to make his kite and what his kite would look like. Ask him to describe what it would need to be like outside for the kite to fly. Encourage him to tell you how high his kite would go and how it would get there too.

ART

Using construction paper of different colors or white paper that you color together, cut out different shapes. Then, put them together to see what different things you can make. Try making a house, a boat, or a train just like in the book.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend you are at a carnival and set up carnival games for him to play. Use clean, empty plastic bottles and set up a bottle toss. Instead of a ball, use a rolled-up sock for him to toss at the bottles. Encourage him to toss a rolled-up sock into a large pot or mixing bowl for another game. Set up an obstacle course for him to run through using pillows and rolled up blankets too.

