



TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG

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TO FAIL**

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INSPIRING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



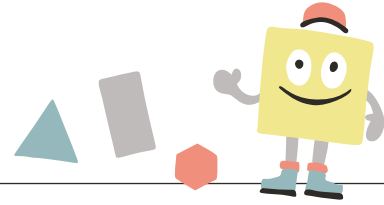
**GREAT START
COLLABORATIVE**
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TALKING IS
TEACHING.

**TALK
READ
SING**

LET'S TALK ABOUT MATH

EVERYDAY FUN WITH SHAPES



Research finds that having a strong foundation in early math can lead to higher achievement in both math and reading later in school. Starting from birth, young children benefit from exploring shapes using their senses. Later, they combine shapes and objects of different sizes, like making a block tower or art collage. **Understanding shapes** is one of the early math concepts that children develop from birth to age five by exploring:

- Shape characteristics—noticing what makes each shape different, like knowing that a triangle has 3 straight sides and 3 angles.
- Matching—recognizing common elements of shapes and matching pairs (circles, triangles, and squares).
- Positioning shapes—understanding how shapes fit together and can be combined, like putting together a puzzle.

It's fun and easy to help your child learn these important concepts. Whether you're at home, outside or at the grocery store, simply describe the shape and position of objects as you go about your day together.

HAVE FUN WITH MATH: PLAYFUL PARENT-CHILD SHAPE ACTIVITIES

0-12 MONTHS

Hold an orange in your hand and say, "An orange is round and smooth." Hold a dish towel and say, "A dish towel is a square and feels soft." Encourage your baby to explore these objects using her hands and, when safe, her mouth (like sucking on a rattle).

12- 24 MONTHS

Explore shapes by rolling a ball back and forth, stacking flat objects on top of one another, or putting small objects inside a box or bucket. Narrate the activity using "shape words" such as "The ball is round and rolls," "The newspapers are flat and make a neat stack," and "This piece fits into the cup because it's smaller."

24-36 MONTHS

Have a "shape snack" with your toddler. Offer a square (or rectangle) cracker. Cut a grape in half to show your child its round shape. Cut a piece of cheese into a triangle. Talk about and trace each shape with your finger before you eat it. Ask your child, "Would you like your sandwich cut in four triangles or four squares?"

3-5 YEARS

Go on a shape hunt. Shapes are all around us so have fun looking for shapes and talk about them. "The window is a rectangle. Look, it has 4 sides and 4 corners. Let's see how many rectangles we can find." Or, "The mirror is shaped like an oval." It's fun to make shapes too. Using a stick, draw a shape in sand or dirt while at the park. See if your preschooler would like to try. You can also "paint" shapes on the sidewalk or driveway using a paintbrush and water. Practice making BIG circles and then little ones, BIG squares and little ones, etc.

YOU CAN FIND MORE TIPS LIKE THESE—AS WELL AS VIDEOS, INFORMATION, AND MORE—AT
TOOSMALL.ORG/LETS-TALK-ABOUT-MATH OR ZEROTOTHREE.ORG/EARLYMATH.

#TALKINGISTEACHINGTIPS Calendar



Talk, read, and sing with your children every day! Simple interactions like the ones below can help boost children's brain and language development, setting them up for success in school and beyond. Please share photos of your family talking, reading, and singing using the hashtag #TalkingIsTeachingTips

1

Use snack time to teach your child about shapes. Hold an orange in your hand and say, "An orange is round. What other foods are round?"

2

Have fun drawing shapes together. As you draw, use words to describe the way they look. For example, "A square has four equal sides and four angles."

3

Go on a shape hunt! Point out the shapes of objects as you look around, like a car tire (circle) or a window (rectangle).

4

Have fun doing a simple puzzle with your child! Use math words like corner, match, and rotate as you work together.

5

Use your body to make shapes! Encourage your child to make a circle with her arms or a triangle with her legs.

6

Let's make shapes! Help your child create shapes and patterns with playdough. What shape and pattern will you make today?

7

Play with blocks! It's a great way to help your baby learn about shapes and early engineering concepts.

8

Self-care is important! You can better care for your children when you take the time to take care of yourself.

9

Share a book with your child. As you read, ask questions like: "What do you see? What's your favorite page?"

10

As you're driving or riding the bus, talk about the colors of traffic lights and what they mean -red means stop, green means go.

11

During bedtime, hold your baby close and sing a lullaby. What's your favorite song to sing together?

12

Take turns showing each other different faces and use words to describe them: "We're smiling because we're happy!"

13

Have fun singing a silly song about your day with your baby!

14

Take a walk in your local park and talk about the colors, shapes, and sizes you see around you.

15

Play peek-a-boo while getting dressed! Ask, "Where are you?" as you pull a shirt over your baby's head. Then say, "There you are!"

16

During bath time, use words like "sink" or "float" to help your child experiment and learn new words.

17

During snack time, sing about food and make fun food rhymes like "banana fanana!"

18

Everywhere you go, use words to talk about what you see and what your baby is looking at or pointing to.

19

Share a nursery rhyme with your child today. Use your hands and body to bring the words to life!

20

Use words to describe how food tastes or smells. Ask, "What does this apple feel like? Taste like? Smell like?"

21

Share a book or a song in your native language. It's a great way to introduce your child to your home culture!

22

Sing "Old MacDonald" with your child, and change the animals on the farm to other animals or objects you see in your home!

23

Begin a daily gratitude routine with your child. Each day at bedtime, take turns sharing things you were thankful for that day.

24

Books can help children develop empathy! When reading together ask questions like: "How do you think the character feels?"

25

As you help your child get dressed, talk about colors of his clothes. You can say: "Your socks are red and soft!"

26

Sing songs like "Five Little Monkeys" that have simple counting patterns to help your child learn early math skills.

27

During bath time, play fill and dump with a cup. This teaches your child about measurement concepts like full and empty.

28

Your baby loves to hear to hear the sound of your voice! Talk about what you're doing and name objects around you.

29

At the grocery store, describe the food you put in your cart using words like big, tall, wide, or tiny.

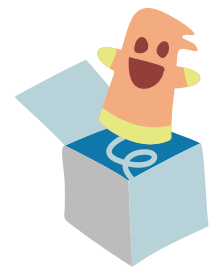
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As you do laundry, describe the clothes you're folding: "This shirt is humongous! What else can we find that's humongous?"



LET'S TALK, READ AND SING ABOUT SHAPES!

BOOK AND VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



BOOKS

So Many Circles, So Many Squares

By: Tana Hoban

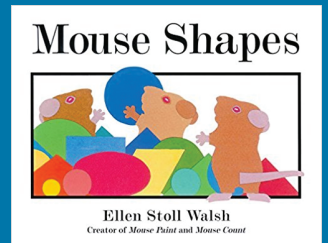
The photos in this book will encourage children to see circles and squares in all manner of objects, like dishwashers, teapots, oranges, tires, and more! The book is wordless, making it perfect for young children to engage with all on their own.



Mouse Shapes

By: Courtney Dicmas

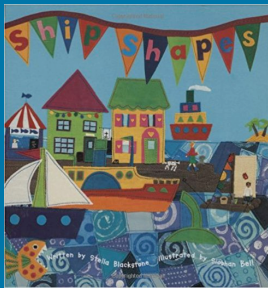
This delightful book follows three little mice as they hide from a cat among a group of shapes. Eventually the mice use the shapes to create all manner of clever images including a house, a wagon, and even a cat! This book is perfect for pairing with pattern blocks or other shape based toys that will allow children to create their own shape-based images like the mice in the story.



Ship Shapes

By: Stella Blackstone

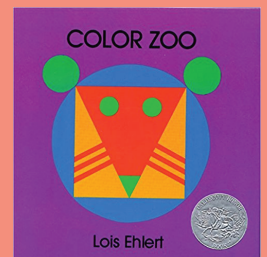
This book introduces children to nine different shapes that they will encounter throughout the book. The story follows two children and their dog on a seafaring adventure. As the characters encounter pirate ships, sea monsters, and more, young readers are invited to count triangles, identify squares, and dive further in to learning about shapes.



Color Zoo

By: Lois Ehlert

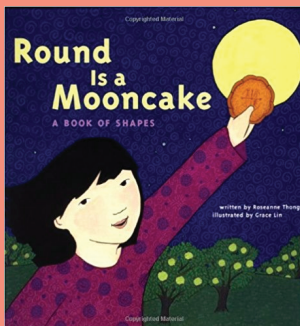
Color Zoo features a unique and clever design. Each page has a cutout such that stacking the pages together creates the image of an animal. Then, as each page is turned, a new animal is revealed. The book includes labels for each cutout shape to help children identify them.



Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes

By: Roseanne Thong

The rhyming text in this book introduces shapes to young readers through the eyes of a young Chinese-American girl. As the narrator provides a tour of the shapes in her neighborhood, she also provides the reader a wonderful window into Chinese culture.



Talk While You Sort Shapes

Everyday interactions are filled with opportunities to talk, read, and sing about shapes with your little one. In this video, you'll find great examples of ways that you can talk with your child as you learn about shapes together.

talkingisteaching.org/resources/highlights-guide



VIDEO

For more tips and information, please visit: www.kzooGSC.org