

Why should children learn shapes?

Knowing their shapes helps children in other areas of development.

- Children who know their shapes can more easily distinguish the shapes of letter and numbers. They will be able to transfer lines and shapes into writing, recognize them during reading, and recognize numbers to help with math.
- When children are learning shapes they are developing their observation and categorization skills which are useful for science.
- Shape recognition and shape sorting helps children problem solve.

Activity: Shape Finder

Materials: cardboard box or construction paper, marker or crayons, scissors.

Goal: Develop verbal, written, and math skills while discovering shapes.

Directions:

- Help your child trace different shapes on to a cardboard box or construction paper with a handle.
- Cut the shapes out, make sure to cut out the middle so your child can see through it.
- Once the shapes are cut out, help your child label each shape. As they write the names of the shapes you can describe the shape and sound of each letter.
- Explain to them that each shape finder will help them look for other item around the house that has the same shape.
- Encourage your child to walk around the house using each of the shape finders to find objects with similar shapes.
- Talk to your child about some of the item they find. For example: "You're right, the microwave isa rectangle shape. It has four sides, two long sides and two short sides" to encourage them to describe shapes as they find them and notice the different lines that make up shapes.

