Shapes

Preschool children are fascinated by shapes. They love learning words that describe shapes, like straight, curved, circle, corner, flip, and line. Preschoolers who play with toys that teach them how things fit together, like blocks and puzzles, are learning spatial awareness and permanently improving their math skills.

Glow in the Dark Shapes

Tape shapes around your child’s room—on the walls, on the doors, on the ceiling, etc. If you have fluorescent tape or paint, it might be fun to apply it to the shapes. Turn out the lights, pull down the shades, and give them a flashlight to “spot the shapes.”

Puzzles

Children who play with puzzles are better at understanding the ways shapes change when they are moved. Do wooden or easy jigsaw puzzles together and use shape and position words to describe what you are doing. “I think we need one with a straight edge.” “Hand me the piece next to the plant.” “How about if we turn it around?”

Body Shapes

Have your child make shapes with her body. If it’s a shape that needs more than one person, invite a friend, family member, or stuffed animal to help.

Building Blocks

Use wooden or foam blocks to build things together. Give your child a problem to solve. “I love your house. How could we make a door so the people can get in or out?”

Books to Read

Here are some books you may want to read together:

- Wednesday by Anne Bertier
- The Secret Birthday Message by Eric Carle
- A Circle Here, A Square There by David Diehl
- When a Line Bends, a Shape Begins by Rhoda Gowler Greene
- The Perfect Square by Michael Hall
- Shape by Shape by Suse MacDonald
- Not a Box by Antoinette Portis
- Skippyjon Jones Shape Up by Judy Schachner
- Figuras y Ratones/ Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh