

SHAPES shapes

Play Tip:

Identify the **SHAPES** you see and talk about them with your children.

Circles and **triangles** are often parts of letters. Being able to see **shapes** will help children later recognize letters. Knowing letters and their names is one of the skills children need to learn to read!

SHAPES shapes

Play Tip:

Being able to identify **shapes** lays the foundation for later math – geometry. Young children can better understand **shapes** if they actually handle them.

WRITING writing

Play Tip:

Giving your children paper and crayons, markers or pencils even when they can only scribble is the beginning of early **writing**. It takes a lot of coordination to write. Scribbling and drawing are the beginning steps to **writing**.

Posting your child's work on the refrigerator or around the house will show him/her how proud you are of his/her efforts!

Music and Instruments

Play Tip:

The use of small **percussion instruments** such as **bells, shakers** and **drums** help children with muscular development and coordination.

Music rhythms and rhythms encourage spontaneous movement that strengthens the child's body and helps to develop sensory control.

Play along and dance!

PLAY

Play Tip:

Play is really important. Pretend play helps children think symbolically and develop oral language skills. As children play store or pretend to be an animal, they talk about what they're doing. They practice putting thoughts into words.

Here's a tree, what are the animals thinking about now that it's getting to be winter?

TALKING talking

Some nursery rhymes help children develop narrative skills. Those skills will later help them understand what they read. Giving children aids, like flannelboard pieces, helps them to remember the sequence of a story and makes it easier for them to retell the story in the correct order. Try this at home too!

Play with **Brown Bear Brown Bear!**

WRITING writing

Play Tip:

Writing is another good activity that helps your child get ready to read. One of the first words children **write** is their name. This usually begins as scribbling. As children learn letter names and improve their motor skills, they begin to form the letters of their names.

Write your name on the paper, then decorate it!

CURIOSITY :

Be sure to share factual books with your young children. Follow their interests, whether in a particular animal, in how things work, in trains, or anything else that piques their curiosity. The information in non-fiction books introduces new vocabulary words, and we learn right along with our children. Supporting their curiosity goes a long way in encouraging a love of learning. Many children who are less interested in stories are very interested in particular topics – trains, dinosaurs, various animals, how things work, and so forth.

Play Tip:

Explore the insects with the magnifying glass!