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Simple Ways To Teach Your Child About Shapes

By Nicole Dean

Babies are so curious, aren't they? They seem to want to reach out and touch everything. Whether it's a toy, stuffed animal, or any object inside your home, they immediately want to feel it or, in some cases, put it in their mouths. Here are 6 tips to help your child recognize shapes.

Babies listen intently to a mother's voice. They take everything in, like sponges – all of the sights, sounds and especially, the shapes. It is important, then, to communicate what objects are to your child on a daily basis.

- Point to toys in your child's room. Tell your child what the toy is and have them say it.
- Point to an object in your home and repeat what it is, then ask your child to say the word.
- When giving your child a bath, you may have a toy boat or rubber ducky for your child to play with. Say the word.
- On a warm summer's day, take your child outside and point to trees and flowers and repeatedly say what they are.
- Babies love pets; point to your dog or cat; say the word and have your child repeat the word and the name of the pet as well.

When you take your child to the park, and notice kids on the swing – or perhaps someone has balloons – point to these objects and tell your child what they are. Place your child in the sandbox with a pail and shovel. Identify the sand, pail and shovel. If your child points to an object, as they most often do, tell your child what it is. By simply walking around your home and pointing to objects on a daily basis, your child will not only learn what the object is, but will be able to distinguish it from other objects as well. A simple activity like blowing bubbles can turn into a lesson on circles.

The more you communicate with your child, the better prepared he or she will be when beginning pre-K.

Nicole Dean co-created <http://www.kidsactivitycalendar.com> to help her child and others prepare for

Kindergarten in a fun way. To get your free sample lesson, stop by <http://www.kidsactivitycalendar.com/letter-a-sample.htm> today.

Potty Training Battle of the Wills

By Danna Henderson

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Some children practically potty train themselves, while others struggle and resist against the potty. Potty training should never turn into the battle of the wills. If it does, both you and your child will lose. When dealing with strong-willed child, it's best to turn potty training into a game. Use the following suggestions to make potty training fun and exciting for you and your child:

Musical Potty Chairs - Musical potty chairs, like the Tinkle Toonz, use positive reinforcement by playing a tune to reward your child for a job well done.

Potty Training Dolls - Dr. Phil recommends that parents purchase an anatomically correct drink & wet doll for potty training. Both the Corolle and Aquini potty training dolls can be used with Dr. Phil's method. By helping your child teach the doll to use the potty, your child will learn without realizing it.

Potty Training Charts & Stickers - Potty training charts and stickers can go a long way to motivate your child to use the potty. At first he may need a reward each time he sits on the potty. Eventually you will need to restrict rewards to actually using the potty. When your child uses the potty consistently, stickers can add up to a bigger reward for a specific number of accident free days.

Potty Training Watch - Some children don't want their playtime to be interrupted for frequent potty breaks. However, if you have a fun way to remind your child to take a potty break, he will probably be more receptive. Try a potty training watch, such as the VibraLite, which can be set to vibrate every 30 minutes to 1 hour to remind your child to sit on the potty.

Potty Training Targets - Potty training targets are a great way to teach boys how to aim. They come in a variety of colors and shapes, the potty training targets can also be used to teach colors and shapes.

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Danna Henderson
ZIP Baby
101 Convention Center Drive, Ste 700
Las Vegas, NV 89109
<http://www.zipbaby.com>

Danna Henderson started ZIP Baby in order to provide parents with comprehensive potty training information as well as a large variety of potty training products. For more information about potty training, visit <http://www.zipbaby.com>.
info@zipbaby.com

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