

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

Read

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Make the story come alive! Don't be afraid to use voices and have fun with reading.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Encourage your child to participate: filling in rhymes, chanting refrains, making sounds, and acting out parts of the story.

Talk about the shapes you see in each book. Can your child name every shape they see?

Sing

Do You Know What Shape This Is?

Tune: Do You Know the Muffin Man?

Hold up a different shape from the shape sorter or bean bags each time you sing a new verse.

Do you know what shape this is?
Shape this is? Shape this is?
Do you know what shape this is?
I'm holding in my hand?

Make a Circle, Make a Square

Tune: Oh My Darling Clementine

Make a circle, make a circle
Draw it high in the sky.
Use your finger, use your finger
Make it round, as round as pie.

Make a square, make a square
Make the lines nice and straight
Make a square, make a square
You could draw one or draw eight

Make a triangle, make a triangle
Always start at the top.
Make a tent shape for a triangle,
Use three lines, and then you stop!

Talk

Depending on the age of your child, you can use the bean bags to practice position words. Ask them to find a certain shape and to place it with another shape using different position words. For example, "Can you find the star? Can you put the star behind the circle? On top of the square?"

Relate the shapes from the kit to shapes around you and your child. What in the room is in the shape of a circle, star, square, etc.?

The back of the shape sorter helps match familiar shapes to their names. Say them aloud to or with your child as they lift the flaps.

In *Perfect Square*, the square changes shape several times. Ask your child if they know anything else that changes shape or size. Use clay or playdough to illustrate how things can change.

Write

Toss the shape bean bags onto the sidewalk (driveway, etc.). Trace around them with chalk to practice drawing the different shapes. See if you can recreate them without having to trace. Write the names of each shape under them as you go.

Let your child practice their fine motor skills by carefully sorting shapes with the shape sorter. Connect the shape of the blocks to the shape of the holes by tracing your child's finger along their edges.

Cut up a square of paper into different shapes like in *Perfect Square*. Can your child put them back into the shape of a square? What kind of new shapes can they make?

Play

The mice in *Mouse Shapes* put different shapes together to make new, more complicated shapes. Make new shapes with either the bean bags or the blocks included in the shape sorter. Can you make the same shapes as the mice? Or can you come up with brand new shapes?

Take a walk around your neighborhood and try to find shapes like those in *City Shapes*. Turn it into a game of I Spy using shapes as your descriptors. "I spy something... that is a circle!"

Play catch with the bean bags! Say the name of the shape (and/or the color of the shape) as you throw and catch each bean bag.

Arrange the bean bags in a row. Ask your child to name the shapes in order as you point to them. Mix up their order and repeat. For older children, ask them to close their eyes. Remove a shape. Ask them to open their eyes and see if they know what shape is missing.

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.