



The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!

ACTIVITY



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Overview

A great way to teach your child about shapes is to take a walk around your house, neighborhood or town and go on a shape hunt. If you look closely, you'll be amazed at how many shapes you find. From octagonal stop signs and square window panes to triangular roofs and round door knobs, shapes are everywhere!

What to Do

- [Shape Hunt Adventure](#)
- [Take It Further](#)

Shape Hunt Adventure

What You Need

- Camera
- Paper
- Crayon or Marker

Directions

1. The Cat in the Hat is going on a shape hunt adventure in his Thinga-ma-jigger. Ask your child if she wants to go on a shape hunt adventure, too. Remind her to take a camera because she'll want to take pictures of all the shapes she finds.
2. Before going on your shape hunt, help familiarize your child with the shapes you'll be looking for. Talk about the characteristics of each shape. Read a book with lots of pictures of shapes, such as *Shapes, Shapes, Shapes*, by Tana Hoban.
3. Shapes to look for: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, pentagon, and hexagon.
4. Begin by pointing out a few shapes for your child. Then, the next time you spot a shape (e.g. a rectangular brick), ask your child, "Can you find a rectangle in that wall?"
5. Once your child gets comfortable finding shapes, ask her "What other shapes can you find?"



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6. Take a picture of each shape you find.
7. Help your child make a shape book with the pictures. Use one sheet of paper for each shape. Write the name of the shape at the top of the sheet. Ask your child to look through the pictures and find the shapes for each page. As she looks for each shape, help her remember the characteristics of that shape by asking questions such as, “Can you find all the triangles? A triangle has three sides.”
8. When the shapes are all pasted into the book ask your child to make a cover for the book. The title can be “My Shape Book” or your child might enjoy seeing her name in the title, such as “Anna’s Shape Book.” Tell her to use a crayon or marker to decorate the cover of her book by drawing pictures of the different shapes that are in the book.

Take It Further

You can also look for the following 3-D shapes: cube (e.g., a square block or dice), rectangular prism (e.g., a rectangular book or box of tissues), cylinder (e.g., an oatmeal container or roll of paper towels), and sphere (a ball or orange).

Your child might also enjoy making shapes out of play dough or even edible shapes such as shape cookies or shape sandwiches.

More Ways to Discover and Learn

Related Game

The Great Shape Race – Collect shapes and match them to ones in a wagon that the Cat is pulling with his Thinga-ma-jigger.

(<http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/great-shape-race.html>)