

Read and Play with Math

Shapes

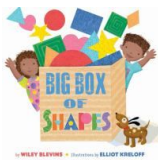


Early math skills are essential for kids to be successful in school and life. **Shapes** is one of the nine Big Ideas put forth by Erikson Institute's Early Math Collaborative that young kids need to practice. We are featuring activity sheets for all nine ideas this summer. Here is Erikson's website for more great math activities and information.

<https://bit.ly/30wTbgd>

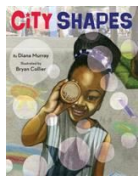
Everything around us has a **shape**. Learning to tell apart basic shapes helps young children focus on a specific attribute of an item.

Read and Talk



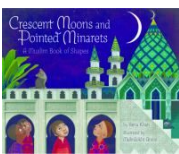
Big Box of Shapes by Wiley Blevins (Youth Picture Book BLE)

Triangles, circles, squares. To most of us, these are just simple shapes. But in the imaginations of Lulu and Max, these shapes take on exciting new meanings. Cut out some simple paper shapes and see what creations you come up with!



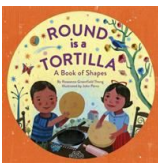
City Shapes by Diana Murray (Youth Picture Books MUR)

A young girl walks through the bustling city while a pigeon flies above, both spotting hidden shapes at every turn. This is an invitation to go out looking for shapes in your neighborhood. What shapes will you discover?



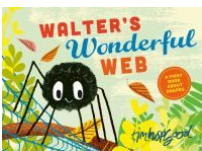
Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets by Hena Khan (Youth Picture Book KHA)

In simple rhyming text, a young Muslim girl shows the traditions and shapes of Islam. Talk about the difference of two- and three-dimensional shapes. Both are round, but what's the difference between a circle and a cone?



Round Is a Tortilla by Roseanne Thong (Youth Picture Book THO)

A little girl discovers things that are round, square, and rectangular in her neighborhood. Look around. Do you see more circles or more squares?



Walter's Wonderful Web by Tim Hopgood (Youth Picture Book HOP)

A young spider named Walter tries to weave a sturdy web. Can you pick out the different shapes that are formed while he is working? Making a web is hard work. Which web do you think will help Walter catch the juiciest bugs?

Play

Have some fun with shapes:



Gather some items at home and sort them by shape. Which shape do you have the most of?

Look for shapes in nature the next time you're outside. Notice how this tree stump isn't an exact circle, but we still easily recognize it as round.



Cut sponges into basic shapes and make prints using finger paint. See what creatures or vehicles you can make by putting together simple shapes.