

## Learning on the Go

Waiting with children can be a frustrating time for both parent and child. Why not make it into a fun time to learn?

Most parents have played the “I Spy” game with their child. Looking around the room, the parent might see something blue, and say: “I spy, with my little eye, something blue!” The child then tries to guess the blue item in the room that the parent has seen. Although “I Spy” can be a great way to help children learn colors, the game can be varied to include other learning activities, depending on the age of the child. Here are some other versions to try:

- Shapes. Squares, circles, triangles and rectangles are all around us. You might spy a picture on the wall that is a rectangle, a circular button on a shirt, or a square window.
- Letters are everywhere. For example, while you are waiting in line at the grocery store, you can spy letters in your grocery cart for your child to find.
- For older children, you can spy things and give a rhyming clue. A clue for “car” might be “something that rhymes with ‘far.’” If the child has trouble guessing, you can add another clue, such as the shape or color of the item.

Knowing colors and basic shapes, recognizing some letters, and rhyming words are all skills that help children get ready for school. So why not make that waiting time into fun and playful learning time--and make that wait so much shorter for all!