



Learning on the Go: Early Learning Tips for Young Children

Shapes, Space, and Size

Over the next few months, Learning on the Go Tips will focus on early math skills that help children get ready for school.

Shapes are all around us! You can get in the habit of pointing them out to your baby as you play and talk with her. She may have a round ball, square blocks, rectangular books, or a triangular teether. Toddlers or preschoolers often enjoy sorting toys with different shapes that fit into shaped holes. You can also help your toddler and preschooler look for shapes everywhere you go together—you might find windows, wheels, oranges, eggs, traffic signs, and more! Your preschooler might enjoy drawing shapes with chalk on the sidewalk or with a flashlight on the wall at night. “Shape meals” are also lots of fun, with round banana slices and sandwiches cut into squares, rectangles, or triangles.

Learning about shapes is related to learning about space. Get in the habit of using words like “over”, “under”, “behind”, “inside”, “next to”, “above” and “below” to help young children learn about the concept of location. Putting together puzzles also helps children learn about space.

Size is another related concept that often fascinates children—especially BIG things. You can help your child describe the size of objects by using words such as “tiny”, “small”, “big”, “huge”, and even “enormous” or “gigantic”!

Learning about shapes, space and size will help your young child gain math skills that will help him succeed in school.

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