



The Shape of Things

By Dayle Ann Dodds



The colorful illustrations in this book help children to learn about all of the different shapes that are a part of their world. Simple rhymes help reinforce the concept of different shapes.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them to name the different shapes they see on the front cover.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒What shape is the home that you live in?
 - ⇒What other things can you think of that are shaped in a triangle?
 - ⇒Where else have you seen something that is a circle?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What color was the triangle?
- ⇒What shape was the kite?
- ⇒What was your favorite color?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “The Shape of Things”.

**MATH AND SCIENCE**

Find pairs of objects of different shapes and sizes around the room. Try things like bowls from the kitchen, towels from the bathroom, empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls, or anything else you can think of. Put the pairs next to each other in front of the children. Ask them to tell you which one is bigger and which one is smaller.

READING READINESS

Ask the children to point to the shapes in the illustrations as you read the words. You can also have them point to the other parts of the illustration as you read. For example, have them point to the ocean or the seagull on the page as you read those words.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Hold different-shaped blocks or cut-out shapes in your hand and sing, "Do you know what shape this is, what shape this is, what shape this is? Do you know shape this is I'm holding in my hand?" Use the tune The Muffin Man as you sing.

MOTOR SKILLS

Make your own train together. Take turns being the engine and the caboose. Place your hands on one child's shoulders or their hands on your waist and lead the group around the room. Move forwards and backwards as a train and don't forget to make the train noises.

THINKING SKILLS

Ask the children what they think they would need to fly a kite. Talk about the materials they would use to make their kite and what their kite would look like. Ask them to describe what it would need to be like outside for the kite to fly. Encourage them to tell you how high their kites would go and how they would get there too.

ART

Using construction paper of different colors or white paper that you color together, cut out different shapes. Then, put them together to see what different things you can make. Try making a house, a boat, or a train just like in the book.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend you are at a carnival and set up carnival games for the children to play. Use clean, empty plastic bottles and set up a bottle toss. Instead of a ball, use a rolled-up sock for them to toss at the bottles. Encourage them to toss a rolled-up sock into a large pot or mixing bowl for another game. Set up an obstacle course for the children to run through using pillows and rolled up blankets too.



"The Shape of Things" is a play by American author and film director Neil LaBute and a 2003 American movie. It premiered at the Almeida Theatre, London in 2001 with Paul Rudd as Adam, Rachel Weisz as Evelyn, Gretchen Mol as Jenny and Fred Weller as Phillip. The play was directed by LaBute himself. According to the author's instructions, it is to be performed without an interval or a curtain call. The play has been reprised several times with new casts since its original premiere, most recently under the direction of Brian Rhinehart at the Bernie West Theater in New York City. Ce "Shapes of Things" is a song by the English rock group the Yardbirds. With its Eastern-sounding, feedback-laden guitar solo and anti-war/pro-environmental lyrics, several music writers have identified it as the first popular psychedelic rock song. It is built on musical elements contributed by several group members in three different recording studios in the US and was the first Yardbirds' composition to become a record chart hit. When it was released as a single on 25 February 1966, the song reached