



COLOR & SHAPES

Play brings joy. And it's vital for problem solving, creativity and relationships.
Margarita Tartakovsky

THE IOWA
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM



4Cs
Community Coordinated
Child Care

Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert

Color Zoo invites you to visit a special zoo where you'll see a new animal on each page, as nine animals, nine shapes, and sixteen shades of color change a lion into a goat, an ox into a monkey, and a tiger into a mouse.

Ages: 0 to 3 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Explore and identify the shapes and colors on each page as you read and ask children to name the animal.

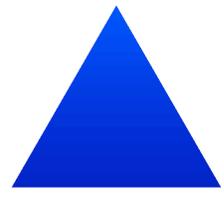
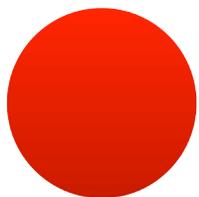
Playful Activity Ideas:

1) Create a Shape Garden made by children using play dough to make simple shapes. Ask the kids to combine the shapes to create interesting sculptures to put into the "garden." The garden can be set up on a table, in a box, etc.

Kit Supplies: Play-dough

2) Play Fruit Loop Stacks! Give each child a small paper plate with a chunk of playdough in the center. Insert a dry stick of spaghetti into the playdough. Now give each child a bowl of Fruit Loops and ask them to stack the cereal by color "First put all the green fruit loops on the spaghetti, next red, etc." OR ask the children to decide for themselves how they want to sort and stack the colored Fruit Loops.

Kit Supplies: playdough, Fruit Loops





COLOR & SHAPES

To play is to yield oneself to a kind of magic.
Hugo Rahner

THE IOWA
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM



4Cs
Community Coordinated
Child Care

Round is a Tortilla by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Round is a Tortilla includes Spanish vocabulary, wonderful illustrations, and explores shapes in the real world. A cheerful color-concept book that presents a slice of Latino culture through food and fun.

Ages: 4 to 6 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Teach the children the Spanish words in the book while reading and then pause when you get to that word so the children can shout it out.
- Answer the questions in the book about shapes as you're reading.

Playful Activity Ideas:

1) Make shapes lunch or snacks all week long! Identify the shapes in your food as you prepare and eat it. Identify the shapes in both Spanish and English. Suggested lunch ideas include

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| * Round | Tortillas |
| * Square | Pizza cut into square shapes |
| * Rectangle | Club crackers |
| * Triangles | Tortilla chips |
| * Oval | Guacamole that you make (avocado is an oval) |

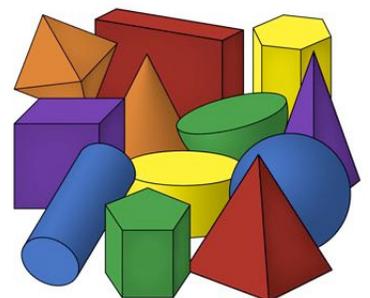
Kit Supplies: shape poster; guacamole recipe

2) Have a Shape Scavenger Hunt! Indoors or outdoors. Hide the shape cards and ask different children to hunt for different shapes.

Kit Supplies: laminated shape pieces

3) Shape Sorting Game: Mix all the wooden shapes together. Have the children sort them by shape. Then, you can count them together.

Kit Supplies: counting shape stacker





THE IOWA
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM



4Cs
Community Coordinated
Child Care

COLOR & SHAPES

The human urge to create comes from the play impulse.
Carla Hannaford

Press Here by Herve' Tullet

Press Here is unique and interactive, whimsical and quite genius! You'll be amazed what happens when you follow the simple directions on each page!

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 0 to 3 years

- Before you read the book, ask the children about the very plain and simple book cover. "This book is called *Press Here*. I wonder what will happen when we press here? Let's open the book and find out."
- Simply read the directions on each page and follow them. Allow children to actually press the dots and ask what happened to the dots. "Did the dots get bigger or smaller? How many yellow dots do you see?"

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Play "Dot Hop." Place different colored dots on the floor (tape them down to make sure they're not slippery). Have the children hop from dot to dot as a "spinner" spins the color wheel and calls out the different colors to hop to.

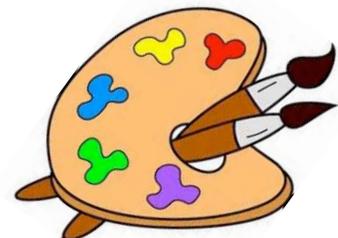
Kit Supplies: laminated color dots, masking tape, color spinner

- 2) Milk Painting: Kids love painting with milk and liquid watercolors! This is a great activity to help children explore mixing colors to create patterns or to learn about mixing primary colors together to get a new color.

Kit Supplies: step-by-Step milk painting instructions, food coloring, Q-tips

- 3) Name in Dots Activity: Paint your name in dots using special Do-a-Dot Rainbow Markers and cardstock. Write each child's name on a sheet of paper filling up as much of the paper as possible. Children fill up the lines of each letter with dots.

Kit Supplies: Do-A Dot Markers, cardstock





COLOR & SHAPES

Play is one of the highest spiritual forms of being. When we're in that state, we get lost in ourselves, which allows the mind to receive the message of the spirit.

Ellie Katz

THE IOWA
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM



4Cs
Community Coordinated
Child Care

Blue Hat, Green Hat by Sandra Boynton

Blue Hat, Green Hat's pages are filled with silly animals showing their brightly colored clothing, but one of them just can't seem to get dressed the right way. Descriptive words help teach toddlers names of clothing items.

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 0 to 3 years

- Before you read the book, sing this fun rhyming song with the children as you pretend to put on your socks together (or really do put on your socks!).
"Hickory, Dickory, Dock, let's put on our socks. We'll tiptoe around without a sound. Let's put on our socks."
- Encourage the children to touch the part of their body where the clothing item should be worn.
- Talk about what the silly animal has done with his clothes.
- Name the color of the clothing you see as you touch each animal's clothing.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Finger paint with edible finger paints that you make with your children. Make sure the children you're playing with understand the difference between paint you cannot eat and special paint that's edible. If you don't think your children can differentiate, don't try this activity.

Kit Supplies: edible finger paint recipe, art pad

- 2) Play Color Dice: Use the Giant Color Dice and have children take turns rolling the die. When the die stops rolling, the child will look at the color on top and find something in the room that is the same color.

Kit Supplies: color die

