



Supporting parents and caregivers with children birth to five years with early learning and development at home

Focus: Shapes around us

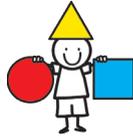
Let's look at **circles** and shapes that are **round**

Why young children need to learn about shapes

SHAPES are everywhere!

Learning about shapes is important for your child's early learning and development. Learning about different shapes forms the foundation of children's future learning. It is the first step to be able to understand and recognise numbers and letters by their shapes later. It helps children to identify differences while they learn to identify the features of each shape. It also builds their vocabulary.

(These are just some of the many reasons why shapes are important).

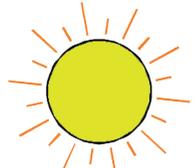


ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

In this activity you and your young child will look at the **circle** or shapes that are **round**. There are circles and other round objects everywhere! You can do this with your child many times and everywhere.

You need: You do not have to buy or collect anything to do this activity.

Ages: You can do this activity with most children in this age group. However, you will need to adjust it according to your child's age and ability.



Younger than 18 months

Point at an object in the house that represents a **circle** (for example a plate, a ball, an orange) and use the word **round** or **circle**.

Repeat often with the same (round) objects.

These activities are for ALL children, including children with disabilities



18 months to 36 months

Adjust these to the age of your child

Show the **circle** above and talk about the examples of **round objects** below the circle.

Ask your child to identify other objects in the house or the garden or sky (like the sun) that are also **round**.

Or **page through a magazine** or brochure together and discover everything that is round. Let the child mark it (if it is in a magazine or brochure that you can throw away).



3 to 5 years

The same activities as on the left can be done.

You can also ask them to walk on their own through the kitchen (or any other room) to see how many objects they can find that are **round**.

Or they can **cut out pictures** that are round from a magazine or brochure.

MORE FUN AND LEARNING WITH ROUND OBJECTS

DRAW A CIRCLE

Let your child **draw** a circle (don't worry if it does not look perfect) on a paper or in sand.

Ask him or her to draw a **face inside the circle** that shows how he or she feels. Then **talk** about the feeling(s) that he or she has drawn.

THE CIRCLE TREASURE HUNT

Create a treasure hunt for children to **find** a certain number of hidden objects that are round in one room.

Give **younger children** a lesser number (for example 3) than older children. Remember to make sure that the number of round objects to be found should not be more than what a child is able to count at his or her age.

Praise your child for every round object found. **Talk about** the object and what the purpose of the round object is, for example, "the plate is round and we eat our food from the plate".

Repeat these activities often. You can create many other activities about circles and shapes that are round.

Remember to keep it PLAYFUL and FUN. That is how young children learn.

HEALTHY HABITS

Teach your child how to wash his or her hands with soap and running water for 20 seconds. It is the best way to prevent the spread of germs and viruses.