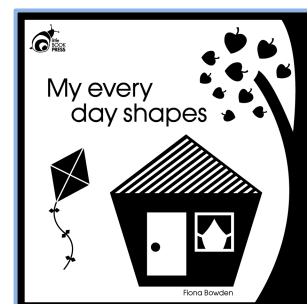


LEARNING TIME

My Every Day Shapes

By Fiona Bowden and Raising Literacy Australia

A high contrast black and white board book specifically designed to help babies focus on simple shapes and every day images. The book is a great introduction to numeracy and first words, suitable for pre-schoolers, too. There are three black and white board books in the series for you to share with your baby right from the start: My First Shapes, My Every Day Shapes and My Food Shapes.



Researchers have repeatedly shown that newborns prefer to look at black and white geometric shapes, rather than bright colours or pastels and are more likely to engage in the experience for longer periods of time.

Key Message for Parents | Children learn from watching and copying

The ability to imitate is present from birth. Babies are very good at mimicking facial expressions and love to copy actions. Parents can help their babies learn from watching and copying by:

- Playing games such as peek-a-boo or singing songs with simple actions
- Showing gentle gestures to babies; such as smiling, blowing kisses, waving and clapping hands - these help babies to mimic and copy and learn the actions and behaviours
- Being a reading role model. Babies learn a lot about how books work just by watching some-one hold the book, turn the pages and point at and talk about the pictures.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

From the moment they are born, babies are taking in the world around them. Naturally curious babies enjoy interacting with caring adults. Back and forth interactions between baby and adult gives babies plenty of stimulation and it is through watching and copying others that babies will learn a range of skills that will lead to them becoming confident and involved learners.

Ways that we can help babies and young children become confident learners are by:

- Providing play activities which are flexible and open ended. This allows for exploration and babies can participate in activities for as long as their attention is there
- Giving praise and recognising all achievements, big and small. This creates 'feel good' hormones in the baby's brain and motivates them to continue the activity. The more opportunities that babies have to play, the more confident they will become
- Joining in with your baby's play is a perfect time to model behaviours and language.

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Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

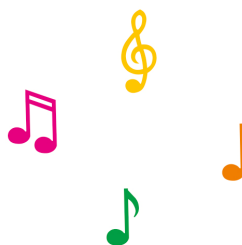
Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

- Sing the song through using a teddy as your child to role model actions for parents and carers.
- Sing the song again, this time use children's names instead of 'Teddy Bear'. Encourage families to join in with their child, helping them with the actions. Being physical helps the brain connect learning. For example, *Anna, Anna turn around* or *Hugo, Hugo, touch the ground!*

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, jump up high!

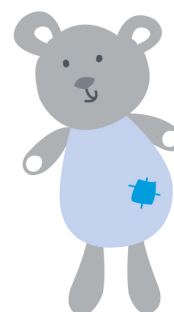
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the sky!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, bend down low!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch your toes!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn out the light!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, say goodnight!



Before Reading

Introduce the book to your group. Tell the parents / carers, 'this book has lots of every day shapes in it. Shapes are everywhere around us. Look at the rectangular windows, the square computer screens, the round shape of the clock, etc.'

You might like to dress in black and white too! During your group time babies' eyes will be drawn to you, particularly if you're not too far away from them at different times during the session (approx. 20 – 25cms).

During Reading

Have enough copies of the book for each person and encourage parents to turn their baby towards them on their lap. You could have a doll or teddy yourself to model the way you would like them to look at the book together, showing them the illustrations and gently pointing to them as you talk about the everyday things and the different shapes on each page. Make suggestions for your families; encourage baby to feel the book, try to open and close the book, turn the pages. Tell them not to worry if baby tries to taste the book! Repeat and repeat while baby is interested.

After Reading

Have the shapes from the book on large pieces of black or white cardboard. Sing 'Teddy Bear' again using the names of the shapes.

*Circle, circle turn around.
Circle, circle touch the ground,
Circle, circle show your shape,
Circle, circle that will do!*

Activity time

Music and Song!

Singing is a perfect way to play and have fun with babies.

What you need:

- A basketful of musical instruments
(e.g. triangles, castanets, drums, flutes, tambourines)

What to do

1. Invite the carers to sit with their babies on the floor in a circle.
2. Sing the '**What is Hiding?**' song to begin play time.
(Repetition is important for learning so repeating songs from previous weeks helps with this.)

Continue next page...

What is Hiding?

What is hiding in my basket?

What is hiding in my basket?

What could it be?

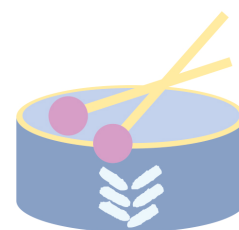
What could it be?

What is hiding in my basket?'

3. As each item is brought out from the basket, encourage families to take a musical instrument and show it to their baby from a distance of 20cms. Let baby explore the instrument and show them how to make sounds from it.
4. Talk about the shapes of the instrument and suggest to parents they gently guide their child's hands over the sides as they count how many edges, sides, etc. You could sing 'Round and round the drum went the baby's (child's name) hand. One step, two steps, tickle under there.'
5. Sing the following song, I am a Fine Musician.

I am a Fine Musician

*I am a fine Musician, I practice every day
People come from miles around
Just to hear me play
My drum, my drum,
They love to hear my drum
Boom, boom, boom, boom,
Boom, boom, boom!*



Change the instrument and action/sound as you repeat the song with additional verses.

- Flute – *tootle, tootle, toot!*
- Tambourine – *ring, ring, ring-a-ling*
- Triangle – *ting, ting, ting!*
- Castanets – *click, click, clickity-click!*

Extension Ideas

- Sing the song 'If you're happy and you know it' and change the words to include instruments
If you're happy and you know it, play the drum
 - *If you're happy and you know it, play the drum*
 - *If you're happy and you know it, then you really ought to show it.*
 - *If you're happy and you know it, play the drum!*
- Talk about orchestras and make your own instruments from items you might find around the home, for example a plastic containers and a baby spoon makes a perfect drum.

STEM Focus (delete if not required)

From birth children are inquisitive. You can nurture early science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts and skills through daily routines and play and exploration activities that you provide for the babies and children in your program. By talking, reading, singing, playing, signing, or using other ways to communicate – whatever works best for your infants and toddlers – you can help them purposefully develop STEM skills. For example, count a baby's toes, describe the changing leaves with children, or talk with a toddler as you play with the musical instruments together!

Children are enquirers and observers when they wonder why and how things work (even when they can't talk yet) and when they watch closely the things around them.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **My Every Day Shapes** by Fiona Bowden
- **My Food Shapes** by Fiona Bowden
- **Every Day** by Mel Four

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

