

# Finding Shapes in the Neighborhood

## Targeted skill

Young children are expected to recognize shapes in real-life objects and describe, identify, and compare circles, triangles, and rectangles, including squares.



## What to do

As you are walking down the street or sitting on the porch, draw your child's attention to geometric shapes that you observe. This activity can be done like the traditional I Spy game, with you saying, "I spy a large rectangle," and your child answering, "Is it the neighbor's front door?"

## Extending the activity

- ❖ You can also "find" more than one shape at a time, such as saying, "I spy five rectangles" to accommodate the windows of the neighbor's house.
- ❖ Shapes can also be found in neighborhood signs. Traffic signs as well as billboards often contain recognizable shapes. As you walk in the neighborhood, call your child's attention to the various signs.
- ❖ Look for shapes in unusual places—the wheels of a bike or car, the shape of a flower, the shape of manicured shrubbery.
- ❖ Encourage your child to record all the different shapes he or she observes. Keeping an Observation Journal can be an ongoing activity for you and your child. Remind your child to take the journal as you go on errands and to regularly add entries to it.
- ❖ This activity can also be done with three-dimensional shapes, such as an ice-cream cone for a cone or a trash can for a cylinder.

## What your child is practicing

Seeing shapes in unexpected places helps your child learn to make close observations and relate things he or she observes to things that he or she knows. Making those connections is important for young children.