



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 30 to 36 Months

Learning to Sort Shapes

Materials:

- Different colored and sized (big/little) shapes cut from sturdy construction paper or poster board

What to do:

1. Start with shapes that differ in color and size: six large blue circles, six medium-size red squares, and six small yellow triangles. Mix the shapes and put them in a pile in front of the child. Let the child play with and examine the shape as you name and describe how the shapes are similar and different. "You're holding a circle just like this circle. See how round it is." "You're touching the triangle. See the points. Here's another triangle."
2. Show the child how to play a sorting game after he's had time to examine the shapes. Take two of each shape from the pile and place them in separate containers. Show him how to sort the other shapes, naming them each time you sort them. "The circle goes with the pile of circles. The square goes with the pile of squares."
3. Invite the child to join in the game. If he puts a non-matching shape in one of the piles, wait to see if he will correct his mistake before helping him. If he doesn't, playfully show him which pile the shape matches. "Oops! There's a circle with the squares. Put the circle with the circles." Point to the correct pile, if needed.
4. Make the game more challenging by letting the child try to sort shapes that are the same size and color. Use 2-inch blue circles, 2-inch blue squares, and 2-inch blue triangles; about four of each.

