Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home

Shapes and Sizes

There are lots of shapes we need to know about – squares, circles, triangles, oblongs … Just to make it harder they all come in different sizes, And what about other shapes? Your foot is different to your hand, but also a bit like it.

If your child gets interested, this could take all day as they explore more and more – follow their lead and see where it goes!

What do I need?

Some interesting shapes from around the home or outdoors that are easy to draw around, such as:

- Food boxes & tins
- Mugs
- Shoes
- Hands and feet
- Kitchen utensils
- Some toys such as animals

Some big bits of paper and pencils or pens – or some chalk for outdoors

What will your child learn from this play?

- About shapes and sizes
- matching
- How things can be different in two ways (e.g., same shape, but smaller)
- Vocabulary for shapes
- Looking at body shapes

What do we do?

1. *Matching game*

Ahead of time, draw round a few different shapes on the paper

Challenge your child to match the object onto the shape

Chat about what they are doing

You can gradually increase the number of shapes if they find it easy (or include a "wrong" object and see what they do)

2. *Exploring game*

Support your child to draw around various different objects, starting with a large and easy one first

Chat with them about the different shapes and how they compare

Draw round their hand and/or feet and your hand and feet – what do you notice?

How can you take it further?

- Explore the different names of the shapes – write these for your child next to the outline
- Pick one of the shapes (e.g., a circle) – can you find others around the home or outdoors?
- Find out who in the family has the biggest and smallest hands or feet – you could draw round their shoes too
- What odd shapes can you find to draw round? A pineapple? A leaf?

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it