

Raising Readers Backpack

Congratulations! By checking out and using this backpack from **Capital Area District Libraries**, you are helping your child develop important literacy skills. Although these skills are very important, they can also be fun to learn.

In fact, every time you use one of these five simple practices with your child, you are helping him or her develop into a lifelong learner: **reading, writing, talking, singing** and **playing**.

Here are some ideas for using the items in this backpack:

- Read the books together, pointing out new words as you go along.
- Write some of the letters or words you see in the book.
- Talk with your child about the items in the kit. Ask what he or she thinks the stories might be about.
- Listen to the music on the CD or DVD.
- After finishing one of the stories, imagine together what might happen next.

Read • Write • Talk • Sing • Play

This tip sheet stays with the backpack. For a copy of your own, visit any CADL branch or cadl.org/raisingreaders.

Please return backpack to checkout desk.

SHAPES

BACKPACK ACTIVITIES

Shapes Poem

I am Cera Circle
Watch me turn round and round
And you will learn
I'm not straight and I don't bend
My outside edges never end!

Squire Square is my name
My four sides are just the same
Turn me around, I don't care
I'm always the same, I'm a square

I am Danny Diamond
I am like a kite
But I'm really just a square
Whose corners are pulled tight

Ricky Rectangle is my name
My four sides are not the same
Two are short and two are long
Count my sides, come along
1-2-3-4!

I'm Tommy Triangle
Look at me
Count my sides
1-2-3!

Shapes cut from paper, cardboard, or felt can be held up for each verse of the poem

(First come shapes, then come letters!)

Children have to be aware of shapes before they can learn letters.

Shapes Hunt Game

Starting with four basic shapes: rectangle, square, triangle, & circle, make an index card with a different shape drawn on each one. Shuffle the cards and spread them out, shape side down. Have your child pick a card and then find examples of that shape around the house. See how many examples of that shape can be found, then draw another card and start searching again!

Shapes Sponge Painting

Materials Needed: regular kitchen sponge, washable paint, paper plate to put the paint on, scissors and paper.

Cut your sponge into good-sized shapes for your child to grasp. Spread paint on plate and dip the sponge. Let your child have fun mixing colors and printing shapes!

