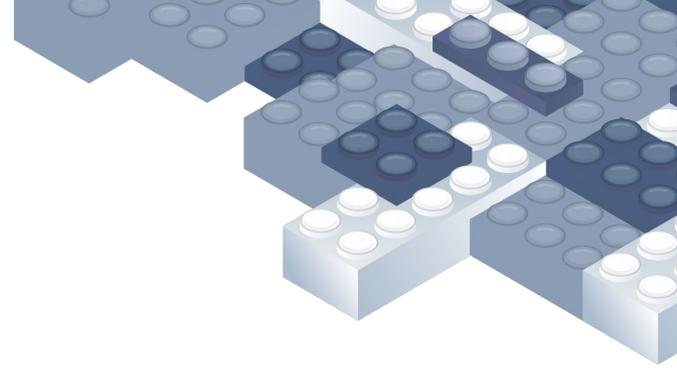


Pre-Reading and Spelling Skills





Learning readiness must be seen as a process and not as a single event.

Children need to be competent in the following areas if they wish to be successful in learning to read and spell with confidence:

- Gross and fine motor skills
- Age appropriate emotional development
- Interact with peers in their school environment
- Understand numbers
- Be able to reason on a concrete, semi-concrete and abstract level
- Be able to distinguish between left and right
- Cross their midline
- Have a good sense of spatial orientation
- Have a good vocabulary
- Be able to recall songs, rhymes, their home address and parents contact numbers
- Identify and name shapes with ease

Spatial Orientation

When a child has a well-developed sense of body awareness, they are able to judge space and distance accurately.

Children with poor body awareness are often referred to as *clumsy*.



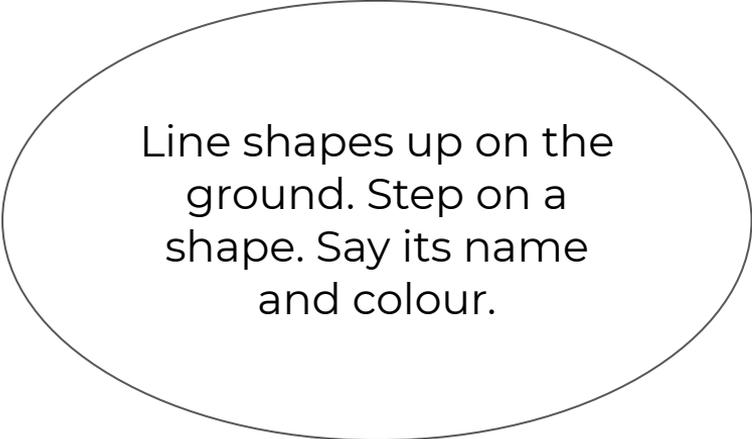
In order to support your child in becoming 'reading ready', ensure they have a firm understanding of the following words:

Space	Speed
Far Near Under Over Inside Outside Between Behind Next to	Fast Quick Slow Still Hurry up! Don't rush! Take your time

The importance of colour and shape

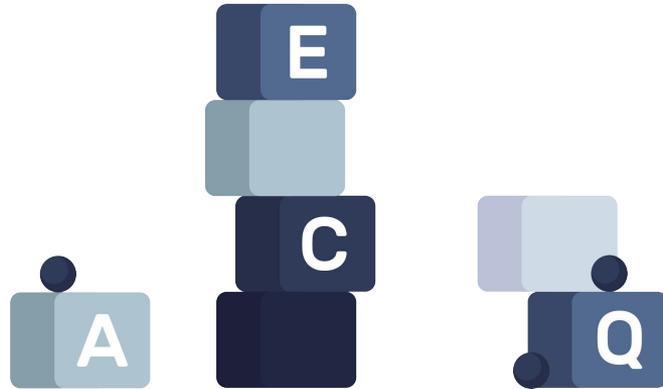
Being able to recognise colour and shapes helps your child build their vocabulary.

As a parent, you can support your child to develop their colour and shape recognition by encouraging them in the following ways:



Line shapes up on the ground. Step on a shape. Say its name and colour.

Scatter shapes on the floor. Call out the colour and name of a shape. Your child needs to walk/hop/crawl/jump/slither to the correct shape.

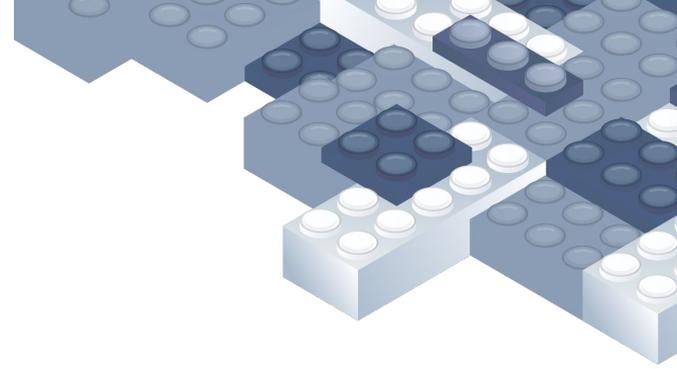


Give your child a beanbag. Call out the name of the shape. Your child must throw their beanbag to the correct shape.



Call out the names of shapes in a sequence (3-5). Your child needs to run to the shapes in the correct order.





Play a shape treasure hunt in the house / garden.

Activities which promote strong pre-reading and spelling skills need to be practised **over** and **over** and **over**. Repetition builds and strengthens a child's ability to access their working memory.

