## Erikson Institute

## Tortillas are Round by Roseanne Thong



A girl discovers a world of shapes all around her: Plazas that are square, flags like perfect rectangles, slices of watermelon that look like triangles... and much more!

- As you read the first pages, talk to your child about what "round" means. Is the whole trumpet round? Where is the camera round? What other rounded shapes do you see? By talking about specific details you are helping your child focus on being precise, which is important for later math.
- Have a shape scavenger hunt. Give your child a paper or plastic bag with 2 or 3 shapes drawn on it (for example: circle, square, triangle). He/she has to look around and collect at least one object for each of the shapes drawn on the bag.
- When you go for a walk, take a ride on the CTA, or are driving somewhere, notice shapes all around you. Describe objects and compare them to the shapes your child is familiar with. For example, "Look! The traffic light is red and it's a circle. Oh, now it's green, but it's also round, that's a circle too!"


## Erikson Institute

# Shapes, Shapes, Shapes by Tana Hoban 



Wherever you are- inside or outside- there are shapes to discover, and with Tana Hoban's help you will begin to see them. Look around. How many circles, squares, stars, triangles, hearts, and rectangles can you see? They are everywhere!

- Looking at the first page of the book, talk about some of the shapes you'll be seeing in this book. Your child may not be familiar with all of these shapes. Help your child name them and talk about what makes the shape that shape. Does it have straight lines or is it rounded? How many sides does it have? Does it have corners? Are any shapes similar to or different from each other? Use this page as a reference, if necessary.
- Shapes can be combined and separated to make new shapes! Can you find any? (Hint: Check out windows, bridges, and power lines in the book for some clear examples.) Combining smaller shapes to form bigger shapes is like combining smaller numbers to make bigger numbers!
- Have a shape scavenger hunt. Give your child a paper or plastic bag with 2 or 3 shapes drawn on it (for example: circle, square, triangle). $\mathrm{He} /$ she has to look around and collect at least one object for each of the shapes drawn on the bag.


## Erikson Institute

## Color Farm

## by Lois Ehlert

On this farm you can view animal ears and whiskers too. Lots of animals to be found. Shapes and colors all around. Look at beaks and snouts with me. Make some more for us to see.

- Join your child in finding the different shapes. How many of each shape can you find?
- Ask if your child can think of another animal they could create with shapes. Help him/ her cut out shapes or make a drawing with shapes to make it. You can use the last 3 sets of pages in the back to help your child think about the shapes of ears, mouths, heads, etc. needed to make the one he/ she wants to make.
- If your child cannot think of a new animal, you can use the geometric shapes you cut to recreate one of the animals you saw in the book.
- Use words to describe the characteristics of the cutout shapes while manipulating them to create the animal.


# Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert 

Shapes and colors in your zoo, lots of things that you can do. Heads and ears, beaks and snouts, that's what animals are all about. I know animals and you do too; Make some new ones for your zoo.

- Join your child in finding the different shapes. How many of each shape can you find?
- Ask if your child can think of another animal they could create with shapes. Help him/ her cut out shapes or make a drawing using shapes to make it.
- If your child cannot think of a new animal, you can use the geometric shapes you cut to recreate one of the animals you saw in the book.
- Use words to describe the characteristics of the cut-out shapes while manipulating them to create the animal.


## Erikson Institute

## Cubes, Cones, Cylinders, \& Spheres by Tana Hoban



Sounds sophisticated? Only until you look at Tana Hoban's incomparable photographs and realize that those shapes are the stuff of everyday life. They are all around us all the time. In our houses, on our streets, in our hands. In yet another breathtaking book, Tana Hoban wakes us up to our world and makes us see it.

- Before "reading" the book, talk to your child about the title. Find those 3-D shapes in the picture on the cover of the book and talk about what makes it that shape. (There is also a reference chart on the page before the first photograph.) The focus should not be on naming the shape, but of noticing its defining characteristics. You can use words like pointed, rounded, flat sides, edges, etc. Perhaps your child may even notice that the flat sides, or faces, of 3-D shapes are the 2-dimensional shapes they are more familiar with (like circles, squares, triangles)!
- Go on a 3-D Scavenger hunt! Choose one 3-D shape and have your child find as many of that shape as possible. If you can, collect the items in a bag. If not, keep track another way.
- When you are at the grocery store, placing items in the cart, describe the shape of the objects. For example, "Look, this soup can has a circle at the top and a circle at the bottom, could it be a cylinder? This cereal box has straight lines and sharp corners."
- Ask your child to help you put away the groceries: "Please pass me things that are cylindrical like the can of soup and tuna. Look! They roll because they are round and don't have straight lines. "

