

## Shapes & Surprises

Have fun introducing your baby to shape, colour, and number concepts. Try these ideas when you play together with the **Cookie Shape Surprise**.

- **Explore and discover.** Place your baby in your lap with the toy in front. Show how to put shapes in, take them out, and try out different activities. As you drop the shapes into the opening, count along, compare sizes, and name colours.
- **Where to start?** When introducing shapes to baby, start with just one. Identify it, show where it fits, and let baby understand the idea of sorting that shape before moving on to a new one. The circle is a good shape to start with...baby may be most successful at placing the round shape into its opening.
- **Encourage sharing** through give and take during play. Hand baby a cookie and ask them to give you one. “Would you like the blue cookie?” “Can I have one too?”
- **Boost developing language skills** by singing along to the songs. You can also encourage interaction and early pretend play ...”Are you hungry? Let’s taste a cookie! Mmm...That was yummy!”

## Laugh & Learn Every Day

When sharing a meal, going for a walk, or getting the mail, just talking about what baby is doing can provide a “teachable moment.”

**Talk about different shapes and** colours when you go for a walk to expand vocabulary and comprehension. Use descriptive words. “See the BIG red bird?” “That sign is a triangle. It has three sides” “Look! There’s a tall tree with bright green leaves!”

**Help your baby understand** the concept of numbers and counting. For example, count steps as you walk up the stairs.

**Reinforce manners** throughout the day by modeling and asking baby to say please and thank you when it’s appropriate.

**Keep in mind** that even if your baby is not ready to recognize shapes and numbers, early exposure to them sets the stage for later learning. And it’s fun!

