Learning to Identify Shapes

Episode 216

When Zak’s new dragondisk gets sticky in Marshmallow Marsh, the friends learn that the only way to clean it is to dip it in the Crystal Fountain in the Crystal Cave. But to get to the fountain, the gang must find things that look like a square, circle, and a triangle. They soon discover that some shapes are similar squares and look a lot like rectangles and circles almost look like ovals. Everyone learns to study the shapes of objects carefully before jumping to conclusions. Eventually, the friends find items of each shape, and Zak happily cleans his dragondisk until it sparkles like new!

Shape Shifting
Explore the shapes around your house! Trace the shapes on paper and cut them out. The bottom of a can of soup could be a perfect circle. Can you find a square? Use your imagination. What else can the shapes become? Maybe the circle becomes a beach ball or the square is a flag. Color your shapes and share your art with friends!

See It and Say It
Sharpen your child’s critical thinking skills by encouraging her to use words to describe what she sees. Find a picture of someone she loves and ask her to describe it. “Where is Carrie in this picture?” or “What colors and shapes can you find here?” Make a game of it; for each observation give her a hug (or a tickle)!

Nearer to Nature
Expand your child’s creativity while investigating different places in the world. Together, look at pictures of nature scenes (mountains, oceans, etc.) and choose your favorites. Imagine what kinds of animals, real or imaginary, might live there. What do they look and sound like? Take turns walking and talking like your animals in their amazing environment!

Get a Clue
Stimulate your child’s sense of adventure while he learns to guess from clues. Think of items around the house that you want him to locate (for example, a spoon). One by one, give him hints like, “It is silver,” or “You use it when you eat your Cheerios.” Celebrate his accomplishments by exclaiming, “Woohoo! You found it!”

Crystal Creation
Ignite your child’s interest in science by making crystals. Mix ½ cup of Epsom salts with ½ cup of hot water (not boiling). Stir one minute in a small, deep bowl, leaving a few salt grains at the bottom. Place in the refrigerator. In three hours, you will have crystals! Give your crystals the magic touch by adding a drop of food coloring.