



Shapes and Sizes

Big A, Little a

Beginner: During story time, ask questions about the size and shapes of what you see in the pictures.

[Tip]: “Who is the tall person?” and “Which is the small circle?”

Intermediate: Point out the shapes and sizes of lines used to make letters.

[Tip]: Talk about short letters (like a, c, and e), tall letters (like b, d, and f), and hanging letters (like q, p, and g).

Experienced: Sort similar letters into groups based on their shape and size.

[Tip]: Try using letter blocks or homemade flashcards. Group tall letters (like b, d, f, and h.), short letters (like a, c, e, and i), and hanging letters (like q, p, g, and y).

Why is this important? Learning to identify visual differences between shapes/sizes and letters helps early readers develop letter knowledge.

References:

Woodrome, S. E., & Johnson, K. E. (2009). The role of visual discrimination in the learning-to-read process. *Reading and Writing, 22* (2), 117-131.

Campana, K. & Dresang, E. T. (2012). Bridging the early literacy gulf. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 48*(1), <https://www.doi.org/10.1002/meet.2011.14504801134>