

**Preschool, Kindergarten, and School-Age Activity: Color Clay.** Teachers can use one of the recipes for homemade clay or play dough listed in Chapter 11. Start with three uncolored balls. Add a few drops of food coloring of one of three primary colors to each ball. Knead. Divide the primary-colored balls in half. Use half to experiment with color mixing. What happens if balls of red and blue, blue and yellow, or red and yellow are mixed together? What new colors of clay result? The result will be different-colored clay balls.

**Preschool, Kindergarten, and School-Age Activity: Made in the Shade.** Children learn to make tints and shades of a color. Individual finger paint sets or tempera paints are used. Begin with the three primary colors. Add a small dab of white to each. What colors result? Are they lighter or darker than the ones you started with? Mix the three secondary colors and repeat the process. Repeat the process adding a very small dab of black. Adding white will produce tints of red, yellow, blue, and the secondary colors. Adding black will produce shades.

**Toddler, Preschool, and Kindergarten-Age Activity: Color Helpers.** Discuss with children how community helpers often wear a certain color. Police officers wear blue. Doctors, nurses, veterinarians, ambulance drivers, paramedics, and hospital workers wear white or green (in surgery). Cooks and chefs also wear white.

**Toddler, Preschool, and Kindergarten-Age Activity: Color Day.** Declare a day of the week to focus on a specific color. For example, every Friday is color day. This Friday's color will be green. Encourage children to wear something green. Activities, songs, stories, and snacks can be focused on the color green.

**Color Stories.** Please see the Appendix C for a list of art-related books. Adults can read books like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* or *My Crayons Talk* to infants and toddlers, comparing the colors on each page to objects in the environment. For older children, Slobodkina's *Caps for Sale* is an excellent book to read and act out. Children will enjoy stacking the red, blue, brown, and gray caps and taking turns being the peddler or the monkeys.

### naea 6-1c Shape

Shape is an appropriate criterion for critiquing two-dimensional art that has length and width. Specifically, what is a shape? Shape:

- refers to the outside form of an object.
- is the edge of an enclosed space.
- is defined by a line or outline, or by contrasting color or texture in the surrounding area.
- represents positive space or figure.
- is created by connecting lines.

Shape has its own qualities and personalities. Some characteristics are:

- simple or complex.
- circular or angular.
- geometrical, including circle, square, rectangle, or triangle; or nongeometrical including irregular, free-form, organic, or amorphic.
- active or quiet.
- clearly defined or vaguely defined.
- tall or short.
- big and large, or small and little.
- open or closed.
- solid, heavy, massive; or open, light.
- proportional or nonproportional.
- concave or convex.
- transparent or opaque.
- hard or soft.
- abstract or realistic.
- symmetrical or asymmetrical.
- precise or vague.

### DAP naeyc 6-1d Shape Activities

Following are activities to help children learn about shape (see Figure 6-3).

**Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten, and School-Age Activity: Sandpaper Shapes.** Geometric shapes, including circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, and diamonds are cut from pieces of sandpaper and mounted on sturdy cardboard. Children enjoy using their fingers and hands to feel the shapes. Older children progress to feeling only the outlines of shapes done in sandpaper.



Figure 6-3 Children can explore shapes in their artwork.