

Numbers and shape activities

- 1) Can you go on a shape hunt? – First, draw out some simple shapes on paper – square, rectangle, triangle etc. Talk about the shapes together, ‘what is special about this shape?’ ‘How is that one different?’ Then, using the shapes drawn on the paper if needed, look around your house/garden/park/neighbourhood and see how many examples of each shape you can find – these might be things you can pick up, or things you have to just point at! (This can be extended to 3D shapes, using more detailed language to describe pointy angles or curvy faces etc.
If recognising shapes is too hard, you can start with a colour sorting game (see attachment).
- 2) Number recognition – to help with learning to recognise numbers, labelling children’s toys with different numbers can create a very simple game. This could be numbering teddies and their different beds, cars and their parking spaces, or even just sorting blocks into boxes. See this excellent video from Linden Children’s Centre Facebook for an example using diggers and parking spaces:
<https://www.facebook.com/173465379363646/videos/805657319841350/>
- 3) Make your own hopscotch! Either using masking tape indoors, or chalk outside, hopscotch is great for recognising numbers, counting, and physical exercise! It doesn’t have to be the traditional 10 squares, experiment with different shapes, numbers and even special instructions!

