

## A Circle Is Round...It Has No End

### Drawing shapes will help your child:

- Improve his grasp for writing
- Gain control of his arm and hand movements
- Learn how much pressure he needs to make a mark



### Ideas to try with your child:

- Give your child a blank piece of paper and a few crayons and let him draw whatever he wants. Scribbling and drawing on a piece of paper is an important step in learning how to write. No lined paper or coloring books needed!
- Put a bit of finger-paint inside a gallon ziplock bag and your child can practice making shapes on the outside of the bag without a mess. Taping the top of the zipped bag should keep the paint inside.
- Make a special writing box for your child with blank paper, colorful markers, crayons and colored pencils.

### If your child is struggling:

- Go outside and draw with sidewalk chalk with your child. As you draw, take about the names of the shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle, diamond, star, or heart.
- Make shapes on the side of the bathtub with soap crayons.
- Trace shapes in the sand or on a cookie sheet covered with salt.

### Going further:

- Take a walk with your child and name the shapes you see in your neighborhood: a yield sign is a triangle, stop sign is a rectangle, a railroad crossing sign is a circle, etc. This will connect his writing to what he sees.
- Show your child how to write his name. Let him try, and praise his efforts as he begins to shape any letter. Don't worry about whether he forms letters correctly at first. Just model the correct letter shapes and keep practicing!

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Draw some shapes and lines using a crayon or pencil." Touch, Seeing, Hearing and Moving Around, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 60