



Level: Preschool
Cost: None
Mess factor: None
Suggested location: Anywhere



This classic game is lots of fun and is also educational. Play “I Spy” with your children and build their skill at identifying colors and shapes.

Children will experience:

- Critical thinking
- Identifying colors
- Identifying shapes

Materials:

- No materials required



Beginning:

Explain to children how to play “I Spy” by picking out something in the room and then describing it by saying “I spy something (name a color).” Once children understand how to play, begin by describing a new item by color. If they can’t guess it, then give them another hint by describing the shape. If they need extra hints, narrow down the location by telling them it is on a specific wall. Try to limit the clues to only color and shape so they focus on those two characteristics only.



Middle:

Take turns with children. Use a variety of different colors and shapes to describe items in the room.

Colors	Red	Purple	White
	Orange	Violet	Gray
	Yellow	Brown	Violet
	Green	Black	Silver
	Blue	Pink	Gold

Shapes	Circle	Rectangle
	Square	Cone
	Triangle	Pyramid
	Oval	Cube



End:

Let children know that this will be the last turn and then bring the activity to a close.

Cleanup:

No cleaning up is necessary.



Younger children:

- If using a whole room to play the game is overwhelming for children, play “I Spy” on one page of a book.
- Cut out shapes from colored construction paper and put them around the room. They will be very obvious to you, but the children will still find it fun and challenging to find the shapes you are describing.



Older children:

- Have children record on a piece of paper each of the items they find.
- Give children a ruler and let them measure each item they find and record it on a piece of paper. Have them list the objects in order of size.
- Create a graph that has shapes listed on the bottom row and colors listed in the left column. See the example below. Have children check off a box each time they find an item that matches the criteria. For example, if they find a round, yellow plate that you described, then an X would go in the box.



Red			
Yellow			X
Green			
	Triangle	Square	Circle

Hints:

- This game tries to get children to focus on just two things: color and shape. You can play using other kinds of attributes, such as height and size.



More!

- It is fun for children to play games in places that are familiar, like their own homes, but you can certainly mix it up by taking them to play “I Spy” in the park or museum.

Special Needs Accommodations:

- Try playing the game through the sense of touch, and describe the items in terms of feel or texture.
- Change the game up a little bit by using items that make a sound, such as an alarm clock, stapler, pencil sharpener, bell, rattle, or dog toy. Have children identify items based on the sound they make.

