Parents are often surprised by the quality and the depth of their child's memory and observation, and many are beginning to recognise that the best time to learn is when everything is new and therefore important to the child.

Here is a series of six books designed to help parents to amuse, interest and at the same time to teach. *Shapes, Colours* and the Ladybird *abc* each have their part to play in bringing the child to an early understanding of the reading process; *Counting* teaches him to recognise and understand simple numbers, and *Telling the Time* shows him how to relate the time on a clock face to his everyday life. *Big and Little* deals with the words which describe relative sizes and positions, all shown through objects and scenes which will be familiar to the young child.

by ETHEL WINGFIELD

designed by HARRY WINGFIELD

illustrated by JOHN SCOTT and HARRY WINGFIELD
Everything around us has a shape.

This orange has a shape.
Its shape is called a circle.
A circle shape.

Circle means round, very round . . .

... no corners

... it can roll.
You can see circles everywhere.
If you could squash down a circle you would get an **oval**.
This egg's shape is called **oval**.

Ovals can be **fat** or **thin**.
Look for **oval** shapes in fruit and flowers.
This shape is called a square.

It has 4 sides all the same

and 4 corners all the same.
How many squares?

This boy has squares on his shirt.
A rectangle has a shape like a square... only longer.

2 long sides and 2 short sides.
How many rectangles can you see?
You will find rectangles and squares all round the house.
These shapes are all called triangles.

Each one has 3 sides and 3 corners.
Here are more triangles.
How many triangles can you see?
Letters are shapes.

a

b

c

d

e

f

So are the kind you post!
Numbers are shapes.
Even names have shapes.

Karl
Michelle
Peter
Cathy

Rajesh
John
Elizabeth
Sue
Ali

Do you know the shape of your name?
Your hand has its own shape.
Can you draw it?
These are shells.

Can you find their shapes here?
Some things don’t have special shape names.

What do you think these shapes are?
Find another like this

and this

and this

Do you know what these signs mean?
You can cut up shapes into other shapes.
You can make pictures with shapes.
Draw some shapes.