



Is it Red? Is it Yellow? Is it Blue?

By Tana Hoban

This wordless book is a collection of photographs, with the main colors highlighted below the pictures. Children can practice their colors by describing the colors used in each picture.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them to name the colors on the front of the book.
- Tell the children this is a special kind of book with no words. Tell them they must look closely at the pictures to find different colors.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒What colors are you wearing today?
 - ⇒What kinds of fruits do you like?
 - ⇒What is your favorite color?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What kinds of pictures did you see?
- ⇒What colors did you see?
- ⇒Which picture do you like the best?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “Is it Red? Is it yellow? Is it Blue?”



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MATH AND SCIENCE

Have each child pick an item in the room that is mostly one solid color. As a group, sort the objects by color. Make a chart showing how many items are blue, how many are yellow, etc. Talk about which color appears most and which appears the least.

READING READINESS

Write out the words “red,” “yellow,” and “blue” somewhere that all the children can see. Talk about the letters in each word. Ask the children what other words start with R, Y, or B. Have them look for items in the room that start with these letters.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Play “Red Light, Green Light.” Have the children stand in a line facing you. When you say “green light,” the children should move toward you. When you say “red light,” the children should freeze immediately in place. If they continue to move on a red light, they should go back to the beginning. The first child who makes it to you can be the speaker for the next round. To add color recognition, hold up a green or red piece of paper for green light or for red light.

MOTOR SKILLS

Go on a color hunt with the children. Walk around the room or playground, looking for all the things you can see that are red. Have the children tell you what each thing is, then write it

down on a piece of paper. Do the same for yellow and blue things. Count how many things of each color you found.

THINKING SKILLS

Create a matching game by putting different colored dots on small pieces of paper. Draw a red dot on two different pieces of paper. Draw the other colored dots the same way. Flip all the cards over and mix them up. Try to match each card by flipping the cards over one by one and remembering the location of its match.

ART

Give each child a sandwich sized, reseal-able bag. Allow each child to take one spoonful of red, yellow, or blue paint. Seal the bag, and let the children squash the paint around. Then, have them add a spoonful of a different color of paint. Reseal the bags, and have the children squash the two colors together. Talk about what happens when two colors mix. Talk about the new colors each combination makes.

PRETEND PLAY

Cut out large circles of colored paper and place them on the floor. Have the children pretend the floor is “hot lava” and the colors are safe stones. Give the children time to hop around on the colored spots, trying to cross the room without touching the floor. Then, pick a color and have them try to cross the room while only stepping on that certain colored “stone.”

