

# Making Os and Xs

*You're making  
a big circle.*



Give your child easy, direct experiences in making circles and crossed lines.

Inviting your child to build new shapes with you helps her learn and remember letter-like shapes and forms.



## Why this is important

As your child makes shapes she will begin to see that lines must be closed and curved to be a circle. She will learn to use words that talk about the differences between the straight lines of an X and the curved line of an O. Practice in distinguishing shapes and symbols prepares her for reading and math later on.

## What you do

- Create a circle on the floor with blocks. Invite your child to sit in the middle. Use the word *circle* and help her make her own circles with blocks or other materials.
- Help your child trace the rim of a cup with her finger. Talk about the shape as she traces. *This is a circle. A circle is round like a pizza.*
- Draw big and little circles together using crayons. Your child benefits from the practice even though her circles may be very crooked.
- Take a straight rope and bring the ends together so that it makes a circle.
- Show her how to cross two sticks and to draw a straight line over another straight line to form an X.

## Another idea

Point to and talk about Xs when you see them in a newspaper or sign. *See the big X on the sign? That's a red X.*

## Let's read together!

*Stick Kid*  
by Peter Holwitz