

Shape Shifting



Primary colors and primary schoolers go together like peanut butter and jelly. So let kids' preference for the big and bright be king.

A room like this is the perfect primer for teaching color and shapes. As an added plus, it makes a great backdrop for collections of multi-color toys, bedding and general kid-stuff. After all, what good is a tastefully muted scheme of neutrals, if everything your child owns is cherry red or royal blue?

The process itself is easy, and with its hand-made stamps and random patterns, lends itself to family fun. Does your child have a favorite shape or color? Let that be your starting point, crowning the bed or some other focal point with the favored blue stars or red triangles.

In the room featured here, the shape motif is picked up by the fanciful window trim, in a toothed triangular pattern, set off by a glossy coat of blue. Touches like this could be added anywhere—around a door frame, lighting fixture, even along a ceiling molding.

Try to use a splash or two from all the color families—red, orange, green and blue—to tie things together (if all colors are present, no color looks out of place). And feel free to let color migrate to furniture as well. A painted dresser, desk or bed would look right at home in this colorful setting.

What You'll Need:

Paint:

- Paint for walls: Regal® Matte Finish in White (01)
- For furniture: base color is Paddington Blue (791)
- Stamped shapes and furniture accents are Piñata (07) Mauve Bauhaus (1407); Oxford Gold (315) and Floradale Isle (581)
- Window trim is Paddington Blue (791) – all in Regal® Matte Finish

Supplies:

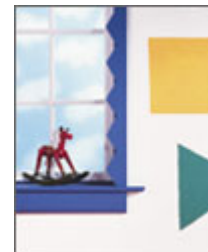
- Sponges, or 1/2-inch upholstery foam
- Craft knife
- Glue
- Thin cardboard
- Rollers
- Brushes
- Trays, plastic plates or empty pizza boxes (clean!)
- Newspaper

Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1: Prime walls if necessary (always prime if this is new construction, over old or damaged walls, or to cover a dark previous color). Allow to dry.

Step 2: Roll on the base coat of white. Allow to dry overnight.

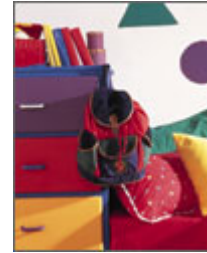
Step 3: Make your stamps. a. Draw or photocopy your desired shapes, in nice oversized dimensions (think big!). b. Glue the copy to a piece of thin cardboard, then glue the cardboard to the sponge or foam. c. Cut out the shape with a craft knife or scissors, and your stamp is ready to go.



Step 4: Pour small amounts of your chosen colors into trays or clean cardboard box tops. Colors shown here: Piñata (07); Mauve Bauhaus (1407); Oxford Gold (315); Floradale Isle (581); Paddington Blue (791).

Step 5: Dip stamps into paint, then stamp once or twice on newspaper to rid the surface of excess paint before applying to wall. When stamping on the wall, be careful to press lightly—and don't smear. Any drips or errors can be wiped off immediately with a damp rag.

One note: Using cardboard cut-outs, tape up the shapes first with low-tack painter's tape to get an idea of where you want them. Try a few different combinations, stepping back each time to evaluate.



To paint furniture: if unfinished, always prime first, then paint in desired colors. If previously painted, sand lightly, clean well with a tack cloth, then prime and paint.