Explore Shadows with Your Child

Searching for Shadows

Go outside on a sunny day with your child. Ask: Where is your shadow? What other shadows can you see? Hop, dance, and do silly walks together. Watch how your shadows move.

Take a walk with your shadows. Notice what happens to your shadows when they fall on a wall, some steps, or a bench.

Compare shadows at different times of day. Help your child notice the shape and size of shadows in the early morning, noon time, and late afternoon. Ask your child to describe his or her shadow. How is your shadow like you? How is it different? How did your shadow change during the day? You might want to draw chalk outlines of your child’s shadow at different times of the day.

Shadow Theater

Turn on a lamp or flashlight in a darkened room. Have your child join you in moving your hands in front of the light and watching the shadows on the wall. Ask your child: How can you make your shadow bigger? Smaller? What shadow shapes can you make with your hands?

Put on a shadow play! Use your hands to make shadows that look like a flapping bird, a quacking duck, or a running spider. Or use toys and household objects as shadow puppets. You can also make shadow puppets out of paper—cut out shapes and tape them to the top of a ruler, drinking straw, or unsharpened pencil.

Watch Peep and the Big Wide World on public television stations around the country and on our Web site, peepandthebigwideworld.org, where you’ll also find online games, family science activities, and much more.

Peep and the Big Wide World—hatching new scientists every day!
Learn More about Shadows

Read and Find Out!

Visit your library and look for these books. Ask your librarian for additional recommendations.

**Guess Whose Shadow?** by Stephen R. Swinburne
Boyd Mills Press, 1999
Shadows come in all shapes and sizes. This book invites the reader to guess the objects that make the mysterious shadow shapes.

**Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow** by Ann Tompert
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988
Can Rabbit escape his shadow? “I can if I want to,” says Rabbit. “Oh no, you can’t,” says Woodchuck. The bet is on. Who will win?

**What Makes a Shadow?** by Clyde Robert Bulla
HarperCollins Publishers, 1994
This “Let’s-Read-and-Find-Out Science” book encourages children to explore and have fun with shadows both indoors and outdoors.

Click and Explore!

**Shadowcasting:** An online activity  pbs.org/parents/creativity
Click on **Creativity Challenge,** then choose **Shadowcasting.**
Move the hands into the spotlight. What kinds of hand shadows can you make?

**How to Make a Shadow Puppet Theater**
squidoo.com/shadow-puppet-theater
Make a shadow puppet theater using a cereal box and other simple materials. You’ll also find links and other information about shadows and shadow puppetry.