



A Conversation with Kristin Haas

Author of
The Shape Family Babies

What was your incentive to write this particular book?

My students often have a difficult time understanding the characteristics of the many geometric shapes that they must understand in accordance with the Common Core Standards. I have used the idea of a rhombus and rectangle having a baby square to convey the idea that a square has attributes of those two other shapes. The story is also engaging to children because nearly all of them have had experience with siblings and cousins being born and named.

When are you most creative?

I'm most creative as I'm falling asleep. It's that twilighty time when I'm slipping into my subconscious that I really get to wonder and imagine. I also get ideas while I'm reading books. When I read, I'm always imagining what will happen next. I'm sometimes correct, but more often I've written a different direction for the plot or characters in my mind.

Do you have any advice for parents?

My advice to parents and teachers would be to listen carefully to children, encourage them to ask questions and guide them into finding their own answers. Children also need to get comfortable with making mistakes. Getting something wrong and trying something else is a great way to build curiosity, endurance, and humility.

What is most rewarding and/or challenging about writing children's books?

I love teaching, so the most rewarding thing about writing a children's book is that I can teach a child something from a distance. I like that children can learn new things in a silly and, hopefully, engaging way by reading this book or having it read to them.

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