



Family Activities

Readiness Skill: Identifies upper and lower case alphabet

Recognizing and naming the letters of the alphabet is one of the first steps your child will take in learning to read. Try the ideas below on how to help your child learn to identify the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.

Alphabet Chart



You and your child can work together to make your very own alphabet chart using a large poster board or sheet of paper. Help your child write out each letter of the alphabet on the poster and then search for pictures in magazines, newspapers or other print materials that begin with each letter. Use scissors and glue to attach the picture to the beginning letter of that word on the poster. Depending on the attention span of your child this activity may be done over the course of several days.

Alpha Mats

Alphabet mats are a hands-on way to help your child learn the letters of the alphabet. Using the printable mat and cut-a-part letter cards provided, help your child name each letter and place the card on the corresponding letter on the arc mat. Continue until all of the letters are matched. Once your child has mastered this skill you can move on to the partial alphabet arc mat. Challenge your child to fill in the missing letters on the partial arc mat. Once your child is comfortable with the upper case alphabet you can repeat the above activities using the lower case letter cards and arc mat.



Alphabet Books

A great way to introduce your child to the alphabet is through alphabet books. There are many children's books that relate to the ABCs. Most of these books are available at your local public library.



ABC I Like Me by Nancy Carlson

ABC Discovery! By Izhar Cohen

Anno's Alphabet by Mitsumasa Anno

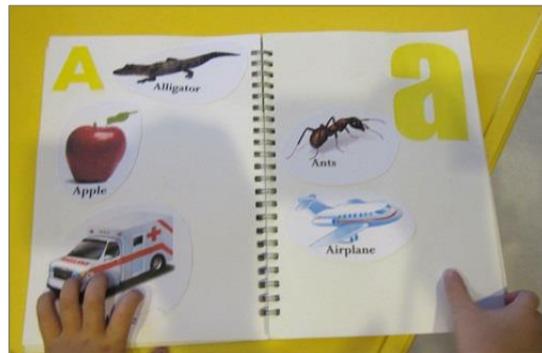
A, My Name is Alice by Jane Bayer

26 Letters and 99 Cents by Tana Hoban

ABC, Say With Me by Karen Gundersheim

Chica Chica Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.

You can also help your child make their own alphabet books. Fold and staple 26 sheets of paper (one for each letter of the alphabet) together. Label each page with a different letter of the alphabet. Invite your child to decorate each page using crayons and markers. He or she can search for and cut out pictures of items from magazines or newspapers that begin with each letter and glue them to their corresponding page in his or her alphabet book. Make this book a part of your family's collection of books and encourage your child to "read" it to you on many occasions.



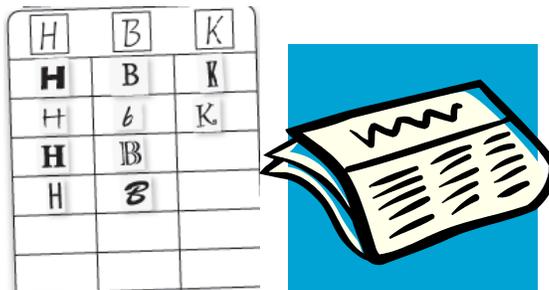
Home Made Alphabet

An inexpensive way to make learning the alphabet a hands on experience for your child is by using dry beans that are labeled with each letter of the alphabet. For this activity you will need to write alphabet letters on uncooked white beans using a permanent marker. Be sure to repeat each letter several times especially the vowels a,e,i,o, and u. Encourage your child to sort the letters and challenge them to find certain letters of the alphabet. Example: “Can you find me the beans with all of the letter Ds?” or “Find the beans of the letter that your name begins with.”



Letter Hunt

Take your child on a letter hunt by using a variety of print resources such as old magazines, newspapers, junk mail, etc. Help your child pick one or two letters that they will search for in these print resources. For example, if the letter Bb is chosen, your child will search through the old newspapers to find as many examples of the letter Bb as possible, cut them out with scissors and paste to a sheet of paper under the letter Bb that has been written at the top. Repeat this activity on different occasions using a different letter each time.



Alphabet Chart

