

Family Activities



Readiness Skill: Recites the letters of the alphabet

Reciting the letters of the alphabet is one of the first skills children learn as they learn about print in their world. Most begin by learning to sing the classic “Alphabet Song“. Although this is the important first step in learning the alphabet, children must be able to simply recite the alphabet whether it is to a tune or not. Try the ideas below on how to help your child learn to recite the letters of the alphabet in fun and engaging ways.

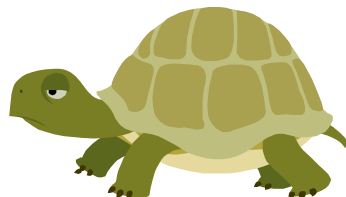
Start With a Song

Singing the classic “Alphabet Song” is a great first step in your child’s learning the alphabet. Give your child the opportunity to practice singing the alphabet as a part of his or her daily routines. For example, as your child is washing his or her hands for dinner he or she can sing the letters of the alphabet as those icky germs are washing down the drain.



Clearly and Slowly

While singing the alphabet song with your child be sure to clearly enunciate the letters L-M-N-O-P as children can often develop the misconception that these are not five separate letters. This is the tricky portion of the song that children tend to slur together. Always sing the song slowly enough as to prevent this from happening.



Alphabet Recite

Once your child has become comfortable singing the alphabet he or she should begin to transition to simply saying the alphabet without any association to music or tune. It may seem boring at first for your child. However, the sooner he or she can begin reciting the alphabet the more likely he or she will begin to associate the letters of the alphabet to their printed forms.



Starting Points



Provide your child with opportunity to recite the alphabet at different starting points. For example, instead of him or her starting the alphabet at the letter “A” he or she could start with a letter such as “H” and continue until he or reaches the letter “Z”. Repeat this activity regularly by beginning with different letters at varying points in the alphabet.

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.