

Alphabet
Recognition
Activities

Learning the Letters

Visually

- ◆ Look at the letter. (Focus on one at a time.)
- ◆ Say it aloud, repeating after an adult, if necessary.
- ◆ Close your eyes and "see it".
- ◆ Open your eyes and write the letter.
- ◆ Check for accuracy; write it again.
- ◆ Look away (up to the left) and "see" the letter in a bright color.
- ◆ Hide/Cover your written sample; write again; check for accuracy.
- ◆ Hide sample; write again in another color; check.
- ◆ Repeat these steps with other letters. (Do not do all letters at the same time.)
- ◆ Write letters several times; check each time.

Auditory

- ◆ Say the letter.
- ◆ Say how to "draw" the letter aloud. (Helpful hints: "A = a line down, a line down, a line across." "B= line down, curve, curve" "C= $\frac{1}{2}$ a circle" etc.)
- ◆ Write it as you say how to "draw" the letter.
- ◆ Check for accuracy; write again; check.
- ◆ Repeat these steps with other letters.
- ◆ Write each letter several times; check each time.

Tactile-Kinesthetic

- ◆ Look at the letter; trace it with your index finger; say the "motions" --A=down, down, across.
- ◆ Draw a line around the letter and notice what the drawing reminds you of - A=triangle, for example.
- ◆ Write the letter in shaving cream, salt in a box, finger paint, pudding, etc., saying the letter name as you write.
- ◆ Form the letters from a variety of materials - yarn letters, sandpaper letters, plastic letters, sponge letters, etc. saying the letter name as you trace them.
- ◆ Sing the alphabet song as you write/trace the letters.
- ◆ Write the letter in the air; write it on paper and check for accuracy.

Miscellaneous Activities in Working with Letters

- **Read, Read, Read** - talk about letters as you go.
- Play "I Spy" with each letter while reading a book or in a print-rich environment (stores, restaurant). Parent: "I spy the letter A" Child: "Is it right here?" (pointing in book) or "Is it the purple letter on that sign?"
- Make alphabet books - cut letters from magazines and glue on 26 pages. Letters can be of all shapes and sizes and you can have many of the same letter on a page. Can find matching pictures to glue on appropriate pages.
- Read alphabet books. Check the library for ABC books. Point out the letters.
- Play with plastic or magnetic letters. Build names of family members, pets, etc.
- Cut out environmental print and name the letters. (Example: McDonald's, Toys R Us, Trix, etc.)
- Make the letters using q-tips, licorice, clay, straws, etc.
- Point out similarities between/among letters. An "O" is like a "C"., An "E" is an "F" with another line at the bottom.
- Search out letter recognition games and activities on the internet. (See attached list.)
- Play "commercially" produced alphabet board games or software.

Alphabet Recognition and Early Reading Websites

Site Location	Description
http://www.quia.com/custom/363gate.html	Interactive game that consists of matching upper and lowercase letters
http://www.cast.org/udl/TeachingSounds,Letters32.cfm	Beginning Reading Software review including cautions and suggestions.
http://members.home.net/alphabuddies/index.html	Arts and crafts ideas related to the alphabet. Templates of the alphabet in a variety of fonts. Links to related sites.
http://www.istation.com/iadmin/tf/cmeps/alpha_pp.htm	
http://www.learningplanet.com/parents/mom/alphabet/alphabet.htm	Personal favorite.
http://www.minot.k12.nd.us/kindergarten/	Links to quite a few kindergarten related sites.
www.alphabet-soup.net/	Provides a variety of activities - click on "Alphabet Soup"
www.pbskids.org/	Features characters from the stations popular shows. Jack Huberty's favorite.
www.yourchildlearns.com/index.html	Scroll to Download "Letter Sounds"
http://www.cesa8.k12.wi.us/tlcf/presentation/tots.html http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us/products/oks/WebTots/WebTots.htm	Two sites to assist in developing early learning concepts (and beyond.)

By no means is this an exhaustive list. For more sites, I suggest using your favorite search engine and search under "alphabet letter recognition games and activities" or something similar.