

Did you know...



Children who know the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet and how to write them have a much easier time learning to read. This early literacy skill is called "letter knowledge."

Children learn to recognize letters more easily if they can identify shapes and have had experience sorting objects into Same and Different. Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them. At this age they also begin learning how to write the letters. This takes a lot of practice, but it can be done in fun ways throughout daily routines.



Here's how...

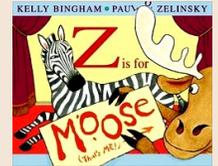


- ✦ When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters.
- ✦ Encourage your child to write emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc. Don't worry about correct spelling yet.
- ✦ Read alphabet books with your child.
- ✦ Point out letters in the environment or in books and have your child name them.
- ✦ Make an alphabet book with your child using pictures from old magazines, clipart from the computer, digital photos, or drawings.
- ✦ Point out letters and sounds on labels, boxes, newspapers, and signs.

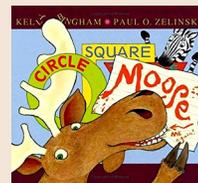
Read



Z is for Moose, by Kelly Bingham



Zebra is putting together a display of things that start with each letter of the alphabet. His friend, Moose, is having a hard time waiting for his turn to be in the spotlight. How will he react when Zebra doesn't use him for the letter M? It's a funny journey finding out how Z ends up standing for Moose!



Have more adventures with Zebra and Moose in this new book by Kelly Bingham, *Circle, Square, Moose*.

Choose Books



More books that teach Letter Knowledge...

The Dangerous Alphabet, by Neil Gaiman

Bugs A to Z, by Caroline Lawton



Almost an Animal Alphabet, by Katie Viggers

Discovering Nature's Alphabet, by Krystina Castella and Brian Boyl

P Is for Potato: An Idaho Alphabet, by Joy and Stan Steiner

The Hidden Alphabet, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Play and Talk



Play “I Spy” with the first letter of your child’s name. “I spy with my little eye a “B” on that sign!” “Can you spy other letter B’s?” You can also play the game with letter sounds. “I spy with my little eye something that begins with a ‘buh’ sound, just like your name.” If your child knows the beginning sounds pretty well, play the game with ending sounds.

Write



Give your child different types of writing tools to practice with because each requires different muscles and skills. Writing with a pen uses a different angle than a pencil. Encourage them to write in ways that connect to their lives—lists of chores, foods they’d like to eat at meals, stories about fun things they did that day, etc.

Sing



Fast ABC’s

(Start this song by slapping your hands on your thighs and sing quickly)

ABCDEFGHIJKLM,

(clap, clap)

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ.

Jack and Jill went up the hill

To fetch a pail of water...

Jack fell down and broke his crown

And Jill came tumbling after!

Oh!

ABCDEFGHIJKLM,

(clap, clap)

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ.

From *The Big Book of Stories, Songs, and Sing-Alongs*,
by Beth Maddigan

Did you know...?



Idaho public school children in kindergarten through 3rd Grade are given a short reading assessment each year in the fall and spring. This assessment is called the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), and it allows teachers and parents to monitor and provide support to young children as they learn to read.

By March/April, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters and know the sounds of several consonants and vowels.

Your child’s teacher can tell you more about the end-of-year reading expectations and how to support your child at home.

Reading alphabet books with your child is a great way to practice naming letters and letter sounds!

At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free “storytimes online” every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone. Visit today!

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE

