

Did you know...



Letter knowledge is one of the most important early literacy skills that helps children be stronger readers. Children need to be able to identify letters in order to decode words and write in a meaningful way.

Pairing upper and lower case letters together is a skill that kindergarteners should be mastering. Playing matching games with other objects helps support this skill. They can be as simple as matching socks or as complex as playing a card game like Uno. There are lots of simple ideas for learning letter knowledge throughout this newsletter.

Here's how...

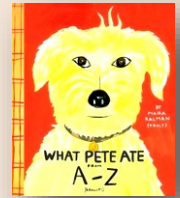


- ❖ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child, or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play "I Spy" games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ❖ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest to your child.
- ❖ Encourage your child to write in real-life ways: writing thank you notes, making lists, creating a schedule, etc. Don't worry so much about spelling; at this age your child is focused on learning to form letters.
- ❖ Teach your child the alphabet in your home language. If a child knows the basics of their home language, it provides a stronger foundation for them to learn to read in English.
- ❖ Read with your child every day. Learning to enjoy reading will provide them with the opportunities they need to practice letter identification and letter sounds.

Read



What Pete Ate from A to Z, by Maira Kalman



Pete the dog has an appetite for unusual things. Join in the fun as he devours cousin Rocky's accordion and eats his way through the alphabet! Can you guess what item beginning with the letter Z Pete might have for a snack?

Other books by Maira Kalman for this age group:

Smartypants (Pete in School)

Ooh-la-la (Max in Love)

Max Deluxe

Max in Hollywood, Baby

Max Makes a Million

Choose Books



More alphabet books...

Alphabet Rescue, by Audrey & Bruce Wood

An Annoying ABC, by Barbara Bottner

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

E-mergency! by Tom Lichtenheld & Ezra Fields-Meyer

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A-Z, by Lois Ehlert

I Spy Letters, by Jean Marzollo

The Icky Bug Alphabet Book, by Jerry Palotta

LMNO Peas, by Keith Baker

Superhero ABC, by Bob McLeod

Talk



What Pete Ate and other children's picture books contain more "rare" words than what is heard on television throughout the day. As you read with your child each day talk about some of the rare words you run across, such as "edible" or "gusto." If you're not sure what the word means, look it up together or ask someone else. This is good modeling for your child for when she finds a word she doesn't know.

Write



Encourage your child to practice writing letters at home with this easy-to-make chalkboard from www.cometogetherkids.com:

1. Get a sheet of dark construction paper, a foam paintbrush and some white glue.
2. Using the brush, cover the entire sheet of paper with a thin layer of glue.
3. Let it dry completely, then prepare your chalkboard by rubbing the side of a piece of chalk over the whole surface and wiping it off.



Play



Car Game: I'm So Hungry!

This is an alphabet game. The first player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator!" (or apple, or something else starting with 'a'.) The next player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator and a bathtub! The next player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator, a bathtub, and a clock!" And so on...

If your children are too young to remember all the previous answers, skip that part and just let them think of something that starts with the current letter only.

Sing



Apples and Bananas

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas
I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas

Now change the vowel sound to A:

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays
I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

Now change the vowel sound to E:

I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees
I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

Now change the vowel sound to I:

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis
I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis

Now change the vowel sound to O:

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos
I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos

Now change the vowel sound to U

I like to oot, oot, oot oo-pples and boo-noo-noos
I like to oot, oot, oot oo-pples and boo-noo-noos

To hear the song go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/raffi-apples-bananas>

At your library...



You can read hundreds of free online books with your child by visiting your local library's website and clicking on Tumblebooks™.

