

## 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...

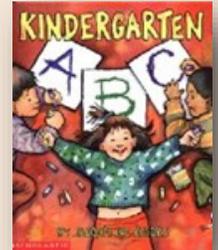


- ❖ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child, or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play “I Spy” games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ❖ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest 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.
- ❖ Read with your child every day. Learning to enjoy reading will provide her with the opportunities she needs to practice letter identification and letter sounds.

## Read

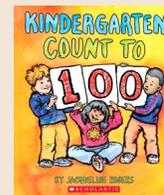


### **Kindergarten ABC,** by Jacqueline Rogers



The children in this kindergarten class have alphabet fun as each day is assigned a letter in the alphabet...from Aa day, looking for acorns, to Zz day, going to the zoo. As you read the book with your child, help him find the items listed on each page. This book helps children become familiar with letters, and builds vocabulary with new and interesting words.

Some other books written and illustrated by this author:



## Choose Books



### **Some recently published alphabet books:**

*Little i*, by Michael Hall

*Little Red Cat (who ran away and learned his ABCs the hard way)*, by Patrick McDonnell

*Fish*, by Liam Francis Walsh

*D Is for Dump Truck*, by Michael Shoulders

*ABZzz...A Bedtime Alphabet*, by Isabel Minhs Martins



## 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



Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut or tear out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into the book. Invite your child to “read” the book when it is finished.

## Play



### The Alphabet Beat

First clap your hands. Then stomp your feet.

Everybody do the alphabet beat.

Apple, Apple, Apple— a-a-a

Apple, Apple, Apple— a-a-a

Wave your arms high. Swing your arms low.

The alphabet beat is the way to go.

Blue, Blue, Blue—b-b-b Blue,

Blue, Blue—b-b-b

Move to the left. Move to the right.

The alphabet beat is way out of sight.

Car, Car, Car—c-c-c Car,

Car, Car—c-c-c

Now give a high five to a nearby friend.

The alphabet beat has come to the end!

*Optional: Repeat, continuing on through the alphabet...*

~from

[mrsjonesroom.com](http://mrsjonesroom.com)



## Sing



**A word about the ABC song...**

**A B C D E F G, H I J K E l e m e n o P e a  
Q R S, T U V, W, X, Y and Z**

Parents often think their child “knows” the alphabet because they can sing the ABC song and/or recite the alphabet, or because the child can point to the letters in order while singing or saying the alphabet.

Being able to do those things can show that a child has some knowledge about the alphabet, but children with good letter knowledge can identify letters in any order.

### Sing

Instead of singing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” try singing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

ABCDEFG

HIJ

KLM

NOPQRST



### 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™.