



Did you know...



By the time your child is five, he or she should be able to name at least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially the ones in his or her name. Letter knowledge is knowing the names and shapes of letters— in any order. Start with the letters in your child’s name, because their name is important to them and they will use it a lot in school. Children who go to kindergarten already knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet have a much easier time learning to read.



Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them. At this age they also start learning to write the letters. Make writing a natural part of their day, every day.

Here's how...

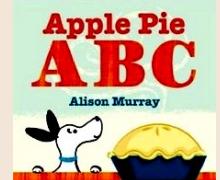


- ★ Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes. Check out ideas on page 2.
- ★ Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- ★ Point out and name letters when reading books or around the house and community.
- ★ Write words that interest your child (like dinosaur, truck, or mom) using crayons or magnetic letters.
- ★ Read alphabet books together. There are many different versions to interest your child.

Read

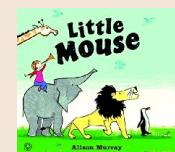
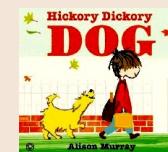


Apple Pie ABC, by Alison Murray



This alphabet book tells the story of a delicious apple pie and the dog who wants to eat it. Each alphabet letter describes the dog’s feelings and actions towards the pie. For example: **E**ager for it, **N**ot giving up, and **Y**um yum. Will the dog succeed in getting a piece of the pie? Read your way through the alphabet to find out.

More books by Alison Murray:



Choosing Books



More alphabet books...

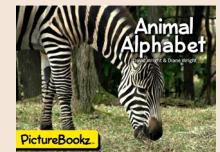
Once Upon an Alphabet: Short Stories for All of the Letters, by Oliver Jeffers



Alphabet Trucks, by Samantha R. Vamos

Q is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game, by Mary Elting

I Spy Letters, by Jean Marzollo



Alphabet Rescue, by Audrey Wood

Animal Alphabet, by David Wright

Play



Easy play dough recipe:

Mix into a pan: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1½ teaspoons cream of tartar, and 1½ teaspoons vegetable oil.

Slowly add 2 cups of water colored with food coloring. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until it turns into dough. Form into a ball and cool. Store in a closed container.

Write



Children need lots of practice writing letters. Save junk mail, buy paper at back-to-school sales, ask friends and family to save paper, etc. so they have plenty to write on.

Provide different types of writing tools as well—pencils, pen, markers, crayons, and chalk.

Sing



Fast ABCs

(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.

Talk



A word about the ABC song...

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. Try some of the activities in this newsletter with your child, and help her slow down while singing the ABC song.

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

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