

Did you know...



Children who go to kindergarten knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet have a much easier time learning to read.

By the time your child begins kindergarten he or she should know most of the letters of the alphabet, especially those in his or her name. Your child should be able to identify letters in *any* order, not just in order from A, B, C, D, E...

There are many ways to learn and practice letter recognition, and they should be more play-based than drills. When children can make a connection with the letter because of what it represents, they are able to keep and use that information in a meaningful way.



Here's how...

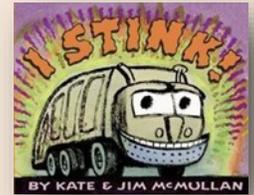


- ✦ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way.
- ✦ Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels. There are many signs out in the community which have letters that children recognize and relate to.
- ✦ Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes. Sing the song in different ways so the letter sounds are clearer— soft, loud, deep, high, slow, fast or to different tunes.
- ✦ Read alphabet books with your child.

Read

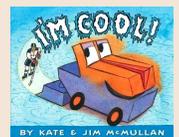
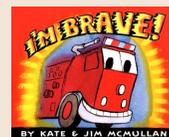
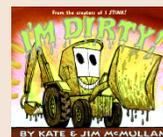
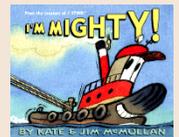
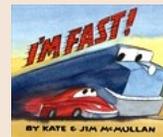


I Stink! by Kate and Jim McMullan



Ever wonder what it's like to be a garbage truck? What fun it is to keep the city clean by eating a special recipe of alphabet soup containing everything from apple cores and banana peels to ziti and zucchini!

If your child likes this book, check out some others by the McMullans:



Choosing Books



Some recently published alphabet books:

"R" Is for Rocket, An ABC Book, by Tad Hills

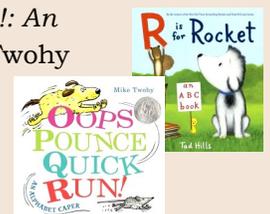
Animal ABC, by Marcus Pfister

B Is for Bulldozer, by June Sobel

Dig Dig Digging ABC, by Margaret Mayo

ABCs on Wheels, by Ramon Olivera

Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run!: An alphabet caper, by Mike Twohy



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?”



Write



This activity can be done in short 10—15 minute sessions over several weeks. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Help your child write an upper and lowercase letter on each page, A through Z. 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



Green Says Go!

For this rhyme, you will need three items or paper cutouts that are red, yellow, and green.

Green says, “GO!” *(Hold up the color green.)*

Go! Go! Go! *(March in place.)*

Yellow says, “Slow!” *(Hold up the color yellow.)*

Slow...sloooow...sloooow. *(March slowly.)*

And red says, “Stop!” *(Hold up the color red.)*

(freeze)

(Hold up Green) Go! Go! Go!

(Hold up Yellow) Slow...sloooow...sloooow.

(Hold up Red) STOP! *(Everybody freeze!)*

When your child is ready, you can add the words, “Go,” “Slow,” and “Stop” to the colors.



Sing



A word about the ABC song...

**A B C D E F G, H I J K ElemenPea
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
UVWXY and Z.

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™.