

## 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 kindergarten age children 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, but effective ideas for learning letter knowledge throughout this newsletter.

## Here's how...

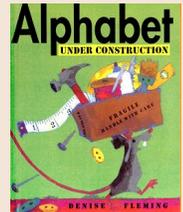


- ✦ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child, or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play "I Spy" games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ✦ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest 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 should be 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



### ***Alphabet Under Construction*, by Denise Fleming**



Mouse is very busy this month! Each day he works on a letter until he has carved, glued, nailed, tiled and zipped the whole alphabet. Young children love the bright illustrations and cute mouse character!

Author Denise Fleming has written several picture books. You and your child can visit her website at [www.denisefleming.com](http://www.denisefleming.com) to:

- learn how she makes her pictures
- see more of her books
- play games
- do crafts and activities

## Choose Books



### **More books for practicing letter knowledge...**

*Paul Thurby's Alphabet*, by Paul Thurby

*Click, Clack, Quackity Quack: An Alphabetic Adventure*, by Denise Cronin

*Z is for Moose*, by Kelly Bingham

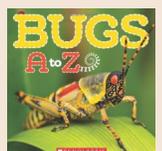
*Alphabet Rescue*, by Audrey Wood

*The Dangerous Alphabet*, by Nick Gaiman

*Bugs A to Z*, by Caroline Lawton

*Alphabet Rescue*, by Audrey Wood

*Bad Kitty*, by Nick Bruel



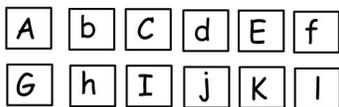
## Checkpoint



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 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.



## Play



Food boxes are part of your child's natural environment at home. They are a great source of letter print for your child to read and play with. Not only do they have letters and words on them but shapes, colors, numbers, food pictures (to label), and logos.

Cut out the front of the boxes and cut that into puzzle pieces. You can start off with a few pieces, and as your child masters putting the puzzle together you can cut them into smaller pieces. Store the pieces in a small plastic bag and you can develop a collection of food box puzzles for your child to play and learn with.



If you have access to a copy machine, photo copy the box front before you cut it into pieces. This can serve as a guide for your child as they re-assemble the pieces.

## Sing



### 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

[www.lagrangelibrary.org](http://www.lagrangelibrary.org)

## 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.

**DayByDayID.org**  
STORYTIMES ONLINE