

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...

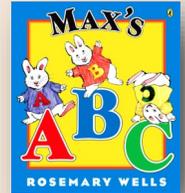


- ❖ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way.
- ❖ Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels. There are many 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



“Max’s ABC” by Rosemary Wells



Max's ants have escaped from their farm, and now they're searching for food. The ants start with Max's sandwich, and soon they're everywhere! Fortunately, Ruby comes to the rescue. A different letter of the alphabet is featured on each page, large and colorful so they're easy to spot.

Award-winning author and illustrator Rosemary Wells has published over 100 books, and has created lovable characters such as Max and Ruby. Look for other Rosemary Wells' books at your local library!

Choosing Books



Some popular alphabet books:

“Click, Clack, Quackity-Quack” by Doreen Cronin

“LMNO Peas” by Keith Baker

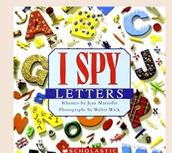
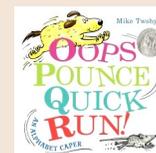
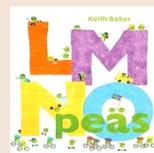
“G Is for Goat” by Patricia Polacco

“Alphabet Under Construction” by Denise Fleming

“Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run! An Alphabet Caper” by Mike Twohy

“Eating the Alphabet” by Lois Lowry

“I Spy Letters” by Jean Marzollo



Talk



Talk about how two pictures are alike and different. Faces: “Both faces have noses, but one baby is smiling and the other is frowning.”

Animals: Both animals have tails, but the horse has a mane and the cow does not. What does the cow have that the horse does not? How else are they alike?”

Write



Pour some uncooked rice in a cookie sheet and shake it until it's all flat. Let your child practice writing letters in the rice with her finger, shaking the pan after each one to re-set the rice.



Play



I Saw a Little Rabbit

(Match body movements to words)

I saw a little rabbit go hop, hop, hop.

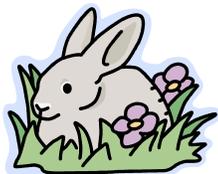
I saw his little ears go flop, flop, flop.

I saw his little nose go twink, twink, twink.

I saw his little eyes go blink, blink, blink.

I said, “Little Rabbit, won’t you stay?”

He just looked at me and he hopped away.



See our friends at the Washington County Cooperative Library System share this rhyme:

<https://tinyurl.com/wcclw-little-rabbit>

Sing



A word about the ABC song...

**A B C D E F G, H I J K ElemenOPea
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™.