

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...

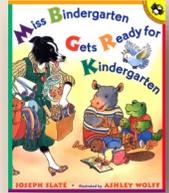


- ✦ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child, or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play “I Spy” games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ✦ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest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

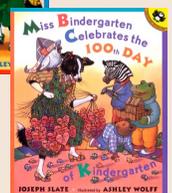
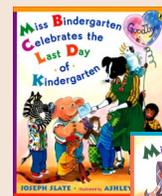


“Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten” by Joseph Slate



It's the first day of kindergarten and Miss Bindergarten is hard at work getting the classroom ready for her twenty-six new students. This brightly-illustrated book is a great way for children to practice their letters!

Other books in this series:



Choose Books



Some fun alphabet books to look for at your library:

“Superhero ABC” by Bob McLeod

“Bad Kitty” by Nick Bruel

“Z Is for Moose” by Kelly Bingham

“A Is for Musk Ox” by Erin Cabatingan

“Animalia” by Graeme Base

“E-mergency” by Tom Lichtenheld

“Kindergarten ABC” by Jacqueline Rogers



Talk



In order to become a good reader your child should have books at home to read, both on his own and for grownups to read to him. The best places to get books that appeal to your child are the school library and public library. You can help your child keep track of library books at home with this simple rule of thumb: Library books are either in hands being read, or in the child's backpack. Talk with your child about helping take responsibility for library books with this phrase:



Books and backpacks are buddies!

Write



A single letter can look very different, depending on how it is written or typed. This can make it difficult for your child to recognize it when reading. Help your child make an alphabet book with variations of every letter on each page. Write letters and cut out letters from magazines:

A **a** *a* **ǎ** **À** **á** **Ä** *ä*

Play



Tap Your Head

(Match actions to the words)

Tap your head,
Tap your toe,
Turn in a circle, *(turn around)*
And bend down low.
Tap your nose,
Tap your knees,
Hands on your shoulders,
Now, sit down please.

(This is a good rhyme to get the wiggles out before settling down!)



Sing



Apples and Bananas

(A song to help learn vowel sounds)

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas
I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas

Now change the vowel sound to A:

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays
I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

Now change the vowel sound to E:

I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees
I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

Now change the vowel sound to I:

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis
I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis

Now change the vowel sound to O:

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos
I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos

Now change the vowel sound to U

I like to oot, oot, oot oo-pples and boo-noo-noos
I like to oot, oot, oot oo-pples and boo-noo-noos

Hear this song at <https://bussongs.com/songs/apples-and-bananas>

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™.