



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...

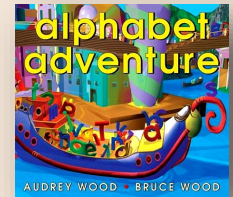


- ❖ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play “I Spy” games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ❖ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest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



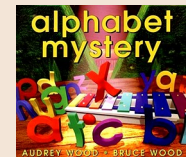
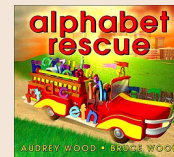
Alphabet Adventure, by Audrey Wood



All the little letters are getting ready for an adventure when Little i falls into the water and loses her dot. The lowercase letters must work together as a team to make sure Little i is dotted so they can get to school on time.

As you read the story with your child, take time to study the illustrations. Help your child find all the letters, ask about letter sounds, and be sure to look for Little i's dot playing hide-and-seek!

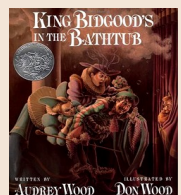
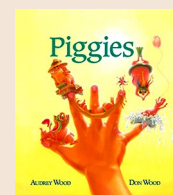
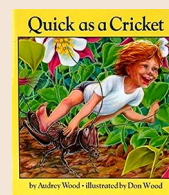
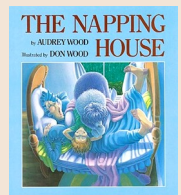
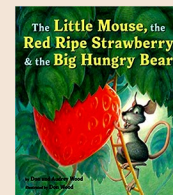
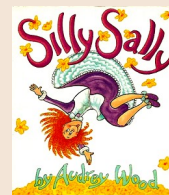
Other books in this series:



Choose Books



Look for other books by Audrey Wood at your local library:



Talk



Try using the phrase “tell me more about that” when talking with your child about their day.

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* **a** **A** **a** **A** *a*

Play



Matching Game

There are several ways you can help your child learn letters and sounds through a matching game. Use index cards or paper. Start with the most simple version, then work your way to more challenging options. Keep the number of cards to 12—16.

- 1) Make a set of cards with all 26 uppercase letters and all 26 lowercase letters. Choose 6—8 sets at a time (Aa, Bb, Cc, etc.). Shuffle, then place upside down. Let your child flip two cards— they are looking to match an uppercase letter with its lowercase letter. If they match, remove that set and keep going until they find all the matches. Ask your child to “read” the cards as they flip them over.
- 2) Make a set with letters and a picture that represents the sound the letter makes (b-ball, d-dog, f-fish, etc.). Use old magazines or catalogs to cut out the pictures and glue to card.
- 3) Make a set with blends of letters and pictures (bl-block, st-star, tr-tree, etc.).

Sing

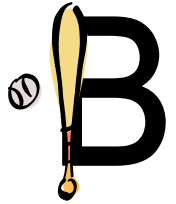


Letter Song, from DLTK’s Sites (tune of John, Jacob, Jingleheimer Schmidt)

Aunt Angie's Alligator-pie,
It has some apples, too.
For words that start with A
The people shout, Hurray!
Words like Aunt Annie's Alligator-pie.
A-A-A-A-A-A-A!



Big Bobby's Baseball Bat and Ball,
He loves to play all day.
For words that start with B
The people run to see!
Words like Big Bobby's Baseball Bat and Ball.
B-B-B-B-B-B-B!



For the lyrics of the other letters, visit:

www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/songs

At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!