

## Did you know ...



Knowing all the letters of the alphabet is one of the most important skills needed in order to learn to read. Identifying letters, knowing letter sounds, and writing letters help children decode words and begin to spell and write in meaningful ways.

Now that your child has started kindergarten, they should know most of the names of letters and many letter sounds. Pairing upper and lower case letters together is a skill they should be working to master. By the end of the year, they should be able to write all uppercase and lowercase letters and begin using them together to write short words.

(Idaho Department of Education, ELA Standards)

## Here's how ...

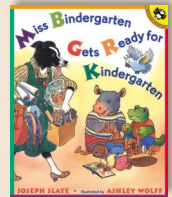


- ✦ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play "I Spy" games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ✦ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks, that might be of interest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

## Read

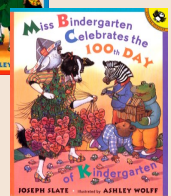
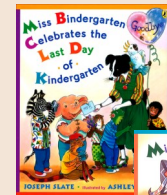
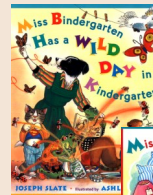


### **Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate**



It's the first day of kindergarten and Miss Bindergarten is hard at work getting the classroom ready for her 26 new students. This brightly illustrated book is a great way for children to practice their letters!

Other books in this series:



## Choose Books



### **Some other fun alphabet books to look for at your public library:**

*A Busy Creature's Day Eating* by Mo Willems

*Alpha Oops! The Day Z Went First* by Althea Kontis

*I Stink!* by Kate and Jim McMullan

*Z Is for Moose* by Kelly Bingham

*Not an Alphabet Book: The Case of the Missing Cake* by Eoin McLaughlin

*Q and U Call it Quits* by Stef Wade

*Superhero ABC* by Bob McLeod

*Wild Animal ABC* by P.J. Rankin Hults

## 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 a **A** a **A** a

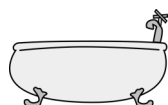
## Play



### Car Game: I'm So Hungry!

This is an alphabet game. The first player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator!" (or apple or something else starting with 'a'.) The next player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator and a bathtub! The next player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator, a bathtub, and a clock!" And so on...

If your children are too young to remember all the previous answers, skip that part and just let them think of something that starts with the current letter only.



## Sing



### Apples and Bananas

*(A silly 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, sing twice:*  
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, sing twice:*  
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, sing twice:*  
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, sing twice:*  
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, sing twice:*  
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 ...



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