

## 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 ...

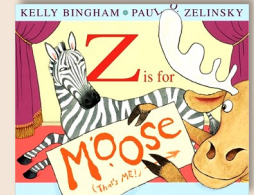


- ❖ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play “I Spy” games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ❖ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest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

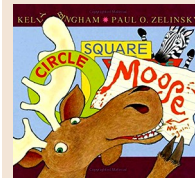
## Read



### **Z Is for Moose** by Kelly Bingham



Zebra is putting together a display of things that start with each letter of the alphabet. His friend, Moose, is having a hard time waiting for his turn to be in the spotlight. How will he react when Zebra doesn't use him for the letter M? It's a funny journey finding out how Z ends up standing for Moose!



Have more adventures with Zebra and Moose in this book about shapes, also by Kelly Bingham: *Circle, Square, Moose*.

## 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

*Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate

*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



Play “I Spy” with the first letter of your child’s name. “I spy with my little eye a “B” on that sign!” “Can you spy other letter B’s?” You can also play the game with letter sounds. “I spy with my little eye something that begins with a ‘buh’ sound, just like your name.” If your child knows the beginning sounds pretty well, play the game with ending sounds.

## Write



If holding or writing with a pencil is challenging for your child, try some of these activities to help practice a “tripod” hold (thumb on one side, two fingers on other side):



- Pick up small objects with tweezers
- Tear strips of paper into tiny squares
- Clip clothespins onto cardboard
- Use scissors to cut shapes from scrap paper or paper grocery sacks

## Play



### Letters Scavenger Hunt

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. Think about the many ways “A” can look:

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

Or “G”:

**G**   **g**   **g**   **G**   *g*   *g*

Help your child make an alphabet book with variations of every letter on each page. Write letters and cut out letters from magazines.

Point out some of these letters as you’re out and about with your child.

## Sing



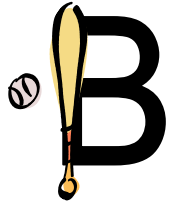
### Letter Song, from DLTK’s Sites

*(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!



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!



For the lyrics of the other letters, visit:

[www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/songs](http://www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/songs)

## At your library ...



Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are committed to helping every child get a great start, succeed in school, and create lifelong learners.

**Libraries are for everyone!**