

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 many 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 the shapes and names of letters, which should be play-based rather than drills, like flash cards. Children should make connections with letters in meaningful ways.

Here's how ...

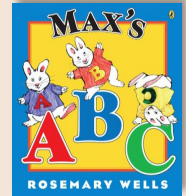


- ✦ Learning shapes is one of the basic skills children need to know before they learn letters of the alphabet. Point out shapes in books and as you're out and about.
- ✦ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or 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.
- ✦ Teach your child to draw straight and curvy lines, then shapes such as circles and triangles, which are the strokes a pencil makes to form letters.
- ✦ 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:

Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

Click, Clack, Quackity-Quack by Doreen Cronin

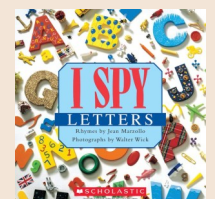
Eating the Alphabet by Lois Lowry

G Is for Goat by Patricia Polacco

I Spy Letters by Jean Marzollo

LMNO Peas by Keith Baker

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



Talk



Talk about how two pictures are alike and different. Faces: “Both faces have noses, but one child 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.

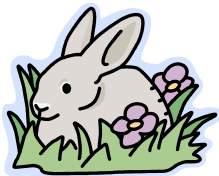
I saw his little ears go flop, flop, flop.

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 ElemenPea
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.”

ABCDEF G

HIJ

KLM

NOPQRST

UVW XYZ.

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!