

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 most 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 and practice letter recognition, and they should be more play-based than drills. When children can make a connection with the letter because of what it represents, they are able to keep and use that information in a meaningful way.

Here's how...

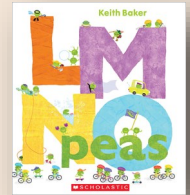


- ✦ Learning shapes is one of the basic skills children need to know before they learn letters of the alphabet. Point out shapes in books and as you're out and about.
- ✦ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or 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.
- ✦ Read alphabet and shape books with your child.

Read

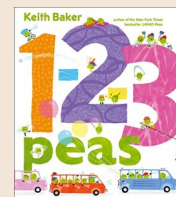


LMNO Peas, by Keith Baker

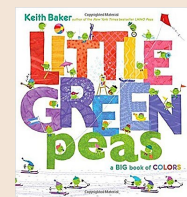


Peas that pose as people are the star of this book. Each letter of the alphabet focuses on jobs that start with that letter- "A" for acrobat, astronaut, and artist, and so on. The colorful letters and fun artwork will draw your child's attention to the possibilities of what they can be when they grow up- all while learning the uppercase letters of the alphabet.

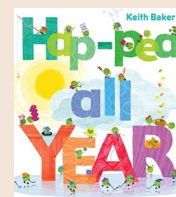
Other books in the "Little Green Peas" series to look for at your public library:



numbers



colors



months



lowercase letters

Did you know...?



All Idaho children are given a short test called the Individual Reading Indicator when they start kindergarten. Your child should be able to point out letters in the alphabet when they hear them said aloud and also know some sounds letters make. Begin working on these things now while your child is in preschool.

Talk



How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about your child's development. **Developmental milestones** are things most children can do by a certain age. For example, by age four your child should be able to sing a song or say a poem from memory, such as "Peas Porridge Hot." They should also begin to copy some capital letters, use scissors, and remember parts of a story.

See more milestones for your preschooler at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

Materials are also available in Spanish and other languages.

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



Clapping Rhyme: Peas Porridge Hot

(Slap hands on lap, clap hands, slap, clap, making a beat while saying the rhyme)

Peas porridge hot,

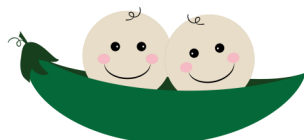
Peas porridge cold,

Peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Some like it hot,

Some like it cold,

Some like it in the pot
nine days old!



Sing



*ABC DEFG, HIJK ElemenPea
QRS, TUV, W, X, Y and Z*

A word about the ABC song...

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.

Instead of singing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," try singing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or another simple tune.

At your library...



Idaho libraries are here to help you during the pandemic. In-person service depends on local health guidelines; however, most libraries offer pick-up service, online service, or 24-hour service, such as free Wi-Fi. If you don't have your library's website URL, use the Idaho library locator at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idaho-library-directory/>.