



English Language Arts

Recognizes upper case and lower case letters



Recognizing and naming letters leads to knowledge of the alphabet. Children need to be able to recognize letters before they can master learning to read. Most children learn letters that are significant to them, such as those in their name, and uppercase letters first. They also learn letters from environmental print, which is the print they see every day on logos, labels, and signs.*

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Letters Everywhere

As you are driving down the street, point out letters in the environment, such as restaurant signs, stop signs, billboards, license plates, and favorite stores.

Pretend Play with Letters

Play activities can help your child with letter awareness, which is the ability to identify written letters. Your kitchen provides a large variety of letters on environmental print, such as restaurant menus, food boxes, and coupons. While playing grocery store or pretending to run a restaurant, you can point out familiar uppercase letters and have your child identify lowercase letters if they are able. If needed, assist your child with the letters.

Chalk It Up!

Use sidewalk chalk to write letters on your driveway or sidewalk, and have your child “hop” to a letter and name it.

Guess the Letter

Squirt some shaving cream on a smooth surface. Make a letter and ask your child to name it.

Letter Hunt

While reading a bedtime story, call out a letter name and encourage your child to point to that letter on the page. Help your child find the letter if needed.

Name that Letter

Using uppercase magnetic letters, have your child point to and name the letter. Provide assistance if needed. Start with letters that are most significant to your child, such as letters in her name.

Listing to Learn Letters

Have your child help you create a list of chores or errands that need to be done. Point out features of letters as you create the list together.

ABC Books

Read ABC books to your child and have him identify the letters. Name the letters he does not recognize.

Letter Toss Up

Write or tape interchangeable uppercase letters in the cups of a sanitized egg carton. Start with letters that are familiar to your child. Place a large bead or coin in the egg carton and close the top. Have your child shake the egg carton, open it, and identify the letter where the bead or coin has landed.

Alphabet Pasta

Cook alphabet pasta and serve it to your child. Have her look at her spoon and call out letters before she gobbles up the pasta.

Creating Letters

Using a handful of cereal, such as Cheerios[®], create letters for your child to name (be sure to snack along the way)!

Fun with Fonts

Point out that letters can look different based on their fonts, and help your child look for similar features across fonts.

* Block, M. K., & Duke, N. K. (2015). Letter names can cause confusion and other things to know about letter-sound relationships. *Young Children, 70*(1), 84–91.

Schwanenflugel, P. J., Hamilton, C. E., Neuharth-Pritchett, S., Restrepo, M. A., Bradley, B. A., & Webb, M. (2010). PAVEd for Success: An evaluation of a comprehensive preliteracy program for four-year-old children. *Journal of Literacy Research, 42*(3), 227–275.

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