



Kindergarten Reading Readiness

Alphabet Recognition

What is Alphabet Recognition?

One of the most vital skills needed for Kindergarten students is alphabet recognition. This means that students are able to recognize letters by sight. Children who can recognize letters quickly have an easier time learning about the sounds associated with letters. Working on letter names and letter sounds prior to entering Kindergarten will allow for your child to have a "jump-start" in their education.

How can I help develop alphabet recognition at home?

There are many different ways to help your child learn the letter names and sounds at home. A few ideas are provided for your convenience.

- **Make an Alphabet Caterpillar-**write each letter of the alphabet on a paper circle (small paper plates work great). Mix the circles up and have your child put the letters in order on the floor to create a caterpillar. Add pipe cleaner antennae and legs for fun.
- **Alphabet Concentration-**write all the letters of the alphabet on index cards (upper and lower-case). Flip them over on the table and have your child look for matches.
- **Hide-and-Seek-**Hide letters throughout your house and have your child find them and read them.
- **Squirt and Spell-**Squirt shaving cream onto a cookie sheet and have your child write letters in the shaving cream.
- **Letter Hop-**With chalk, draw lily pads on the ground. Write letters in the middle of the lily pads. While you say a letter, have your child jump to the lily pad with the letter in it. Continue the game until your child has jumped on all the letters.
- **Letter Races-**Write letters on index cards and place them upside down in a stack. Have your child go through and read the all the letters quickly while you time them. Keep track of the times and challenge your child to beat their previous time.
- **BINGO-**Make a 4x4 grid and put a different letter in each box. Call out letter names while your child tries to get 4 letters in a row.

Phonemic Awareness

What is phonemic awareness?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to manipulate spoken sounds in words. Phonemic awareness includes: rhyming, blending, substituting sounds, segmenting sounds, identifying beginning, middle, and ending sounds, adding sounds, and deleting sounds. Phonemic awareness is the most powerful predictor of success in learning to read and spell. The development of phonemic awareness pre-

pares children for the next phase of beginning reading.

How can I help develop phonemic awareness at home?

Rhyming:

- Read nursery rhymes to your child and talk about the rhyming words.
- Ask your child to find objects that rhyme with a word you say.
- Rhyme words with your child's name.

Blending:

- Play a listening game with your child. You can tell your child that you are going to say a word broken into parts and

that you would like him/her to put the sounds together to make the word.

- Begin with simple one syllable words and gradually increase if your child is ready. Make sure you pause between the sounds.
Example: /a/ /t/
Once your child is comfortable blending 2 sounds, they can break down the word into smaller parts.
Example: /a/ /t/ /t/

Segmenting:

- Play "I SPY" with your child and have him/her find the object that starts or ends with the sound you have chosen.

- Collect familiar objects around your house and place them in a brown paper bag. Next, have your child pull an object out of the bag and have them tell you the first or last sound of the object.

Websites:

- www.getreadytoread.com
- www.starfall.com
- www.acholastic.com/parents/play/
- www.pbakids.org/wordworld