

Alphabet Knowledge

Your child will learn to name all of the capital and lowercase letters throughout this year. As we work on a new letter, I will send home several practice materials—block letters and handwriting practice pages. Here’s how to use them.

Block Letters

Plan a fun way for your child to decorate large block letters with pictures or items that start with the target letter. Here are some ideas.

Aa: draw pictures of animals	Nn: glue on pieces of newspaper
Bb: draw blue bubbles	Oo: draw a picture of an octopus
Cc: draw cookies	Pp: spread glue, sprinkle pepper
Dd: spread glue, sprinkle on dirt	Qq: draw question marks
Ee: glue on egg shells	Rr: color red
Ff: draw fish	Ss: spread glue, sprinkle sand or salt
Gg: glue on green grass	Tt: glue on tree twigs
Hh: punch holes or draw hearts	Uu: draw umbrellas
Ii: draw insects	Vv: glue on pictures of vegetables from store ads
Jj: draw jellybeans	Ww: glue on wooden Popsicle sticks
Kk: trace keys	Xx: draw Xs or glue pieces of paper or yarn in X shapes
Ll: glue on leaves	Yy: color yellow
Mm: glue on a picture of Mickey Mouse	Zz: draw zig zags

Letter Trace

Have your child practice writing letters a few minutes a day.

- Trace the shape of a letter against something textured. This helps your child’s brain notice and remember the shape more easily. Fill a cookie sheet with a layer of sand, salt, rice, or corn meal and have your child practice writing the letter with their finger. Start out doing it together, until you are sure that your child is doing it correctly.
- Have your child practice writing letters using the handwriting practice pages your child’s teacher sent home.
Tip: Make practice pages reusable with a sheet protector and a dry erase marker. Put the practice page in the sheet protector and let your child write with dry erase markers. Wipe the sheet protector clean when finished.

Every once in a while, have your child practice letters she has already learned.

Books to Read

Here are some books you may want to read together:

- Alphabet City* by S. Johnson
- Alphabet Under Construction* by D. Fleming
- Alphablock* by Christopher Franceschelli
- Backseat A-B-See* by Maria van Lieshout
- D is for Dancing Dragon* by Carol Crane and Zong-Zhou Wang
- Dr. Seuss’s ABC* by T.S. Geisel
- Eric Carle’s ABC* by Eric Carl
- Fraidyzoo* by Thyra Heder
- Racecar Alphabet* by Brian Floca
- Z is for Moose* by Kelly Bingham