Family Activities with Letters and Sounds

To get started, print all the cards and the letter alphabets. (You need to print the Rhyming Cards and Syllable Cards double-sided. You can also print them single-sided and glue the matching pages together.) Cut out all the cards and store them in separate bags.

**RHYMING CARDS**
Look at each of the Rhyming Cards with your child. Name each picture so that your child knows the correct word for each card. Begin with four pairs of rhyming cards. For example, cat/hat, tree/bee, drum/gum, and cake/snake.

• **CATCH A MATCH** Mix up the cards and lay them out face up. Have your child pick a card and find its rhyming match. Repeat the words several times to help your child hear the rhyming pattern. For example, cat, hat, cat, hat, cat, hat. Continue matching the other cards.

• **MAKE A RHYME** Ask your child to find a matching pair of Rhyming Cards. Think of more words that rhyme with the pair. These words can be real or silly words. For example, cat, hat... mat, sat, zat, yat!

**SYLLABLE CARDS**
Look at each of the Syllable Cards with your child. Name each picture so that your child knows the correct word for each card. Use the Syllable Cards for the following activities:

• **SYLLABLES 1, 2, 3** Lay the cards out with the pictures face up. Help your child sort the cards into three piles (one-syllable words, two-syllable words, and three-syllable words).

• **CLAP AND COUNT** Pick a card and say the word together. Clap the syllables in the word. Clap the syllables again to count the number of syllables in the word. Do this with each card.

• **LETTER PICTURE CARDS**
Use the Letter Picture Cards for the following activities:

• **SING AND SORT** Mix up the cards and spread them out face up. Help your child place the cards in alphabetical order while you sing the alphabet song together very slowly. Help your child grab each letter as it is sung, pausing or starting again at the beginning of the song when needed.

• **LETTER SOUNDS LIST** Mix up the cards and spread them out face down. Ask your child to choose a card. Say the letter name, letter sound, and picture name. For example, M, /m/, map. Help your child think of more words that begin with the letter, such as milk, mail, Mom...
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I CAN SPELL MY NAME
Using the Block Letters, trace the letters in your child’s name on a blank sheet of paper. Be sure to use capital and lowercase letters instead of all capital letters. (Juan not JUAN and McKenna not MCKENNA.) You may need to tape several pieces of paper together depending on the length of your child’s name.

- Invite your child to color each letter in their name.
- Have your child trace the letters of their name with their finger as say the name of each letter.
- Cut the letters apart to make individual letter cards. Mix them up and have your child place them in the correct order to spell their name.

LETTER FUN
Help your child practice the letter they are currently learning. Using the Block Letters, trace the capital and lowercase versions of the letter on a blank sheet of paper. As you do each of the activities below, talk about the letter name and the letter sound.

- Help your child trace the letters with their finger.
- Decorate the letters, carefully filling in the letter shape. You might use stickers, leaves, or markers to fill the letter shape with colorful patterns.
- Fill the letter shapes with small items such as rocks, leaves, or beans.
- Make a list of words that begin with the letter.

FAST LETTER FUN
To help your child recognize the letters of the alphabet quickly, use the Capital Letter Alphabet or the Lowercase Letter Alphabet. As you do each of these activities, keep it fun and fast-paced. Give your child support as needed.

- Say a letter name. Ask your child to point to the letter as quickly as they can.
- Say a letter sound. Ask your child to point to the letter as quickly as they can.
- Point to a letter. Ask your child to say the letter name as quickly as they can.
- Point to a letter. Ask your child to say the letter sound as quickly as they can.
cake  hat  cat

drum  gum  snake

hen  sled  bed
tree  bee  ten
fan  mice  dice
dog  frog  can
Use the blank cards to make more rhyming pairs.
rose

nose
ze-bra  
turtle  
rabbit

kangaroo  
elphant  
dolphin

banana  
umbrella  
octopus
Key for Letter Picture Cards

A: apple  N: net
B: bug  O: ox
C: cup  P: pot
D: duck  Q: quack
E: echo  R: rug
F: fish  S: sun
G: gate  T: toe
H: hand  U: umbrella
I: igloo  V: vase
J: jet  W: web
K: key  X: box
L: log  Y: yo-yo
M: map  Z: zipper