



Letter Aa

Practice letter Aa. Help your child practice print directionality—print is read from left to right and from top to bottom.

Print Knowledge

To help your child practice print directionality, read a book aloud and point to the words to model reading from left to right and from top to bottom. When your child understands the concept, pretend to be confused, reading in the wrong direction and letting your child correct your mistake. Then demonstrate the correct way to read again, pointing as you go.

Name Chant—Recognize Syllables

Tell your child that names have different numbers of beats or syllables. We can clap the syllables to count them. Use this chant to help your child count the number of syllables in their name:

PARENT: Fiddle-dee-doo, fiddle-dee-dee, Can you say your name for me?

CHILD: Tyler

PARENT: Now let's clap the syllables.

CHILD & PARENT: Ty - ler (Clap as you say each syllable.)

Instead of clapping, you can stomp your feet or snap your fingers. For more practice, use the names of family members and friends.

PARENT: Fiddle-dee-doo, fiddle-dee-dee, Can you say your sister's name for me?

CHILD: Maria

PARENT: Now let's clap the syllables.

CHILD & PARENT: Ma - ri - a (Clap as you say each syllable.)

* /ă/ is the first sound in *apple* and *alligator*.

Letter Name, Shape, and Sound

WATERFORD SONGS

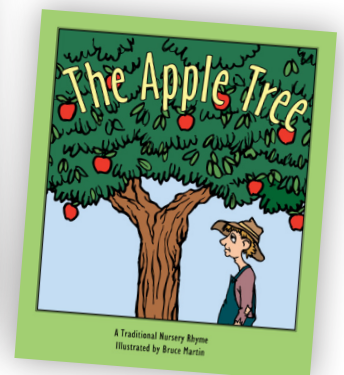
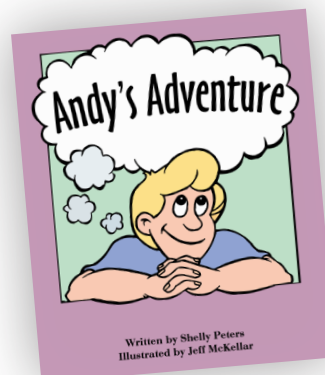
Find these songs on the [Waterford.org](https://www.waterford.org) YouTube channel.

- Practice recognizing capital A and lowercase a with the **Alphabet Songs** playlist.
- Practice the /ă/* sound with the **Letter Sound Songs** playlist.
- Sing along with “One Antenna, Two Antennas” in the **Sing Around the World** playlist.

You can find these Waterford books and practice pages—and many more—in the **Resources & Activities** tab at mentor.waterford.org.

WATERFORD BOOKS

- Read *Andy's Adventure* together. Have your child listen for the words that begin with A and match the words to the pictures.
- Read *The Apple Tree* together. Have fun reading with expression. Read the rhyme again, adding hand motions and actions to act it out.



LETTER TRACE FUN

Print the **Letter Trace A** and **Letter Trace a** practice pages. You can also draw a large capital *A* and lowercase *a* on a blank piece of paper. With your child, draw things that begin with /ă/ inside the letter. Have your child trace the letter with their finger. Keep your letter pages to review often with your child.

Comprehension

VOCABULARY

If your child already knows the meanings of these words, reviewing them will help with comprehension of *The Apple Tree* and can help your child begin to recognize these words when they see them in print.

apple: a round, crispy, juicy fruit

down: from a high place to a low place

high: a long way above the ground

smiled: corners of the mouth turned up

tree: a tall plant that has a thick trunk, branches, and leaves

CHARADES

Play a game of charades. Talk about the vocabulary words. Then choose one of the words and act it out. Can your child guess the word?

CHECK MY GUESS

Before reading *The Apple Tree*, ask your child, “What do you think will happen to the farmer?” Then read the story together to see if their guess was right! Find the vocabulary words in the story.

