

LETTER-SOUND & LETTER-NAME

A child's ability to identify letters by name is one of the best predictors of reading readiness. Knowing letter-names provides a stepping stone for learning and remembering letter-sound relationships which are necessary for decoding words. Children must memorize the links between letter shapes and names. Lowercase letters are usually easier to learn when children already know the similar uppercase letters.

Letter sounds are often easier to learn when children know letter names first because most letter names contain their sound within their name.

ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE DONE AT HOME TO STRENGTHEN LETTER-SOUND & LETTER NAME SKILLS

ABC cards used as Flashcards	<p>Mix-up ABC cards and use them in several different ways depending on what letters your child already knows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mixed uppercase letters only• Mixed lowercase letters only• Mixed uppercase and lowercase letters combined <p>1. Play either Letter-Name or Letter-Sound by taking turns drawing a card and naming either the letter-name, letter-sound, something that starts with that letter or best ALL three!</p> <p>2. Go for SPEED!! Time your child going through the flashcards quickly for either letter-name or letter-sound. Make an I Know It Pile and a Tricky Pile for letters they still need to work on. Record your child's time and then Race the Clock to try and beat their most recent time.</p>
ABC cards used for Alphabetical Order Train	<p>Mix-up ABC cards (either uppercase or lowercase only). Have your child lay them out on a table or on the floor in alphabetical order (singing the ABC song is helpful). Go for SPEED!! Time your child putting the mixed-up cards in ABC order. Record your child's time and then Race the Clock to try and beat their most recent time.</p>
ABC cards used for Uppercase Letter/Lowercase Letter Match Up or Concentration	<p>Take 8 to 10 pairs of matching uppercase and lowercase letter cards and mix them up to play either of 2 games.</p> <p>1. Match Up-lay cards face up & have your child find the matching pairs.</p> <p>2. Concentration-lay cards face down and play concentration.</p>
ABC cards used for Handwriting Practice Game	<p>One great way to help learn and recall letter shapes is through handwriting practice. Put either uppercase letters, lowercase letters, or both in a bag or box. Parent draws out one letter without showing it to the child. Parent says the name of the letter "uppercase B or lowercase b" and child then draws the letter on their paper, whiteboard, chalkboard, boogie board, etc. Parent then shows the child the ABC card to see if it is a match.</p>