

Alphabet Games for Learning the ABC's

- Read books! As you read with your child, point to various letters and ask your child to identify them. There are many excellent alphabet books that aid in the acquisition of letter knowledge, but you are by no means confined to letter books. Read, read and read! Research has proven this is the single most important thing you can do to help your child learn the letters of the alphabet – and for future academic success.
- Write out the alphabet (or specific letters) on a piece of paper. Have your child cut letters from a magazine or newspaper to find all the letters. This also practices cutting and gluing!
- Using shaving cream, ask your child to write specific letters. Start with familiar letters and work your way to unfamiliar ones. This activity can use any sensory material such as sand, dry Jell-O powder or pudding, to name a few. This is a messy yet enjoyable activity for young children.
- Create a simple “Go Fish” game. Pick out trouble letters and write each letter on two index cards. Play Go Fish with the cards.
- As you are driving in the car, play the alphabet game or I Spy using billboards and store signs. Use the time you must spend driving to teach.
- Cut out pictures from a magazine and put them in an envelope. Reach in and pull out a picture. Ask your child to name the picture and the beginning letter sound, as in pumpkin, /p/ sound. If letter recognition is a struggle, have your child look at the picture and write the letter they hear.
- Create a simple 6 to 9 square bingo game with letters that are a challenge. Play bingo until the board is covered.
- Play “I Spy” around the house. For example, ask your child to find an object that starts with the letter f.
- Create Dot to Dot puzzles using letters of the alphabet. Ask your child to say the letters out loud as they connect the dots.
- Buy a set of magnetic letters or create your own (using cardstock and magnet strips). Put a couple of letters on the fridge each day and ask your child to identify them before meals.
- Place Post-Its with letters around the house. Send your child on a scavenger hunt collecting various letters. This can be done with all the letters or just a few.
- Make a simple matching game with letters that your child is learning. Start with 6 pairs, adding more letters or changing out letters as your child masters those.
- Write letters on scraps of paper and spread them out before your child. Ask them to find a specific letter. Once they find it, they can crumple it up and throw it in the trash can or bowl. The letters can be smoothed out and used again.
- Rent from the library (or buy) the Leap Frog Letter Factory dvd. This is a cute and simple, but effective, movie that aids in the teaching of letters.
- Print abc worksheets as reinforcement from websites such as www.kidslearningstation.com. There are plenty of free, high quality worksheets available. This site has good traceable letter worksheets as well as alphabet letter recognition pages.
- Online games are also available as reinforcement and a supplement to your teaching. Some sites include www.starfall.com and www.playkidsgames.com/alphabetgames.htm.