



Recognizing Letters, Sounds and Numerals

Make learning fun. If you can make it into a game, do it!

IN THE CAR...Use the time when you are already stuck.

Talk | Name the letters and/or numbers you see on signs, buildings, etc. For example, the T on Target, H-E-B, S-T-O-P. Spot letters and/or numbers in the most unlikely places. Give a nickel to the one to spot the first the first Q, etc.

Alphabet Games |

- Try to find the letters A-Z on signs, license plates ,etc. (Find the numbers 1-20)
- I spy something that starts with a “D”.
- Choose a category. Try to name something that begins with each letter, A-Z. For example, *girls names* – Abigail, Beth, Carolyn, etc. or *animals* – alligator, bear, cat, etc.

Count | Count everything – cars, houses, street lamps, people talking on phones, etc. Practice counting to 100.

DVD | A great DVD/video for teaching letters and sounds is: *Letter Factory* by Leap Frog (Available at Target or Amazon.com for approx. \$9.99)

Sing | Here are two songs about the sounds the letters make.

- Tune: **The Farmer in the Dell**
The B says “b” (Make the sound for letters in parenthesis)
The B says “b”
Every letter makes a sound
The B says “b”.
(Repeat for each letter.)
- Tune: **Who Let the Dogs Out?**
Who let the A out? “a” “a” “a” “a”
Who let the B out? “b” “b” “b” “b”
Who let the C out? “c” “c” “c” “c”
Etc.



IN THE HOUSE...

Magnetic Letters | Let your child work with them on the refrigerator while you work in the kitchen. Available at most grocery stores.

- Put them in ABC order.
- Spell names and simple words.
- Find the letter you say.
- Find the letter that makes the sound you say.

Shaving Cream | Spread shaving cream out on the table. Write the letters/numbers in it. Wipe it out and do it over and over until the shaving cream evaporates.

Dough Letters | Make letters/numbers out of dough.

- **Pretzel Dough** | Use a small piece of refrigerated French bread dough and roll into a long snake. Shape it into letters/numbers and place on a greased tray. Mix one egg white with one tablespoon of water. Brush each letter with the mixture, and then sprinkle coarse salt on top. Bake the letters in a 350 degree oven for 15-20 minutes. Cool and eat!
- **Peanut Butter Dough** | Mix 18 oz. of peanut butter, 6 tbsps of honey, and enough non-fat dry milk until you get a workable dough. Add a bit of cocoa for flavor and this dough is ready to shape into letters and eat.

Glue | Draw a large letter/number on a piece of paper. Let your child glue popcorn, yarn, glitter, beans, pasta, cereal or buttons on the letter.

Icing | Let your child form letters, using an icing bag, on top of cookies or cupcakes.

Card Games | Attached you will find alphabet and number cards. There are also sound cards with a picture clue (A says "a" like in apple). You can cut them up and use them as flashcards. You can duplicate them and play Go Fish, Memory or any matching game. Put them on a key chain and they can go in the car.

Count | Practice counting pennies, buttons, beans, etc. Put objects in a jar and guess how many. Then count them.

Cut | Allow your child to cut pictures from a magazine that begin with a specific letter/sound. Glue them on a page. Make an ABC book. Cut letters from a magazine to make the ABCs. Cut up

Highlight | Highlight letters/numbers in the newspaper, church bulletin, junk mail, etc. Highlight words that start with a specific letter. Highlight seven letter Bs or twelve letter Ts, etc.

Memory | Give three instructions to be followed in order. For example: pat your head, clap your hands, and say "Boo". Make the game more complicated by adding numbers. For example: pat your head five times, clap your hands three times, and say "Boo" four times.

Read | The best thing you can do is read to your child every day. Talk about the letters and sounds you see.



OUTSIDE...

Sidewalk Chalk | Practice writing letters/numbers with chalk.

Water | Paint letters/numbers with water on the sidewalk, fence or side of the house.

Sand | Draw letters/numbers in the sand. Get a stick and draw giant letters, or draw letters with your toe and heel.

ON THE COMPUTER...

Kindergarten students will have an opportunity to practice skill-building activities on the computers on a regular basis. Practicing proper computer protocol (ie. Not banging on the keyboard) while playing skill building games at home is another great way to keep your little one's mind engaged! A few family friendly websites are:

- www.starfall.com
- www.pbskids.org
- www.fisher-price.com
- www.scholastic.com/clifford
- www.kindersite.org
- www.funbrain.com
- www.seussville.com
- www.funschool.kaboose.com