Phonics

This is the ability to match a unit of sound (phoneme) to the letter or letters that make the sound (grapheme).

- Talk about what sounds are made by which letters.
- Point out letters and print in books. Say what those letters are called and tell your child what sounds they make.
- Match the Letter to the Sound - Ask your child to tell you what letter makes a certain sound (What letter makes the /b/ sound?) Write the letter.
- Make an alphabet book using old magazines and catalogs. Have your child write the letter at the top. Help your child label the picture and read the words.
- Ask your child to match the letters in his/her name to the sounds in his/her name.
- "Alphabet Ball" - Call out a letter and have your child respond with a word that begins with that letter. Bounce the ball to your child and he/she calls out a letter and you respond.
- "Racetrack" - Make a racetrack using paper and markers. Each block of the racetrack will have a separate letter. As your child races his/her car around the track, he/she must say the sound that matches the letter to move forward. You could begin with the letters in alphabetical order and later mix them up. (Remember, consonant sounds are easier than vowel sounds.)
- Write letters on pieces of paper and put them in a paper bag. Let your child reach in and take out letters. Have your child say the sounds that match the letters.
- Writing words - Many children love to send and receive notes, and writing is a great way to reinforce phonics skills. Send your child notes in his/her backpack or place notes on the pillow. Have a relative or friend send a letter or email to your child. Whenever your child receives a note, have him/her write back. Don't be concerned about spelling. Instead, have your child sound out the words to the best of his/her ability.
- Labeling words - When reading with your child, keep Post-it notes handy and have your child choose one picture in the book and label the picture on a Post- it. (For example, a picture of a ball – write the word "ball".) Put the note in the book to read each time you come to that page.
- Practicing words with pictures - Choose pictures from a magazine or catalog. Say the name of the picture, have your child say the sound that the picture begins with and the name of that letter.
- Hunting for words - Choose a letter and have your child hunt for five items beginning with that letter sound. As each object is found, help your child write the word on a list. For example, if the target sound is "m", the child might find and write mop, mat, mom, map, me.

Resource- *The Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide*