

Have Fun Practicing Letters and Sounds at Home!



“Children’s reading development is dependent on their understanding of the alphabetic principle - the idea that letters and letter patterns represent the sounds of spoken language. Learning that there are predictable relationships between sounds and letters allows children to apply these relationships to both familiar and unfamiliar words, and to begin to read with fluency.” (Quoted from Texas Education Agency on ReadingRockets.org). This all starts with a student being able to quickly and effortlessly produce the appropriate sounds for letters.

Here are some fun and easy ways you can practice at home:

- ★ Grab some sidewalk chalk and take learning outside with Alphabet Hopscotch! Simply draw hopscotch markings on the ground (how many squares and in what shape they are arranged is up to you). In each square draw a letter of the alphabet (focus just on the lower case letters). There are many ways you can play this game - you can call out a letter or combination of letters and ask your child to jump on those letters, and as they do, have them give each letter’s sound. Or you can ask your child to jump on the letters in alphabetical order, producing each letter’s sound as they go along. Be creative! There’s no wrong way to play this.
- ★ If you have magnetic letters, get them out and play Letter/Sound Match Scavenger Hunt:
Take a trip around your house and find something that begins with each letter. To make the activity not take quite as much time, you could work on 3 letters a day and have kids find three or four items for each letter.
- ★ Write the lower case letters on sticky notes and hang them up around the room. Call out a letter or give a letter sound and have your child shoot the correct letter with a nerf gun. Or, have your child choose the letter or sound to shoot at.

★ Play the game “I Spy”

In the game “I spy” you pick something that you see and don’t tell the child what it is. The child has to guess what you see. For example, if you see a dog, you can say “I spy something that starts with (make the sound for d)” . After your child finds the object, have them tell you what the first letter of the object is. Alternate turns with your child. First you spy, then they spy, or vice versa.

★ Play letter-sound Go Fish.

Make doubles of lower case letter flash cards. Index cards work well, but you can cut paper up into squares, too. Each player gets five cards and the rest of the cards go in a pile in the center of the table. Player 1 calls out a letter-sound and asks if player 2 has a match. If they don’t have a match, tell them to “go fish” which means to choose from the pile.

★ For a fun movement activity, put pieces of tape around on the floor, with a lower case letter on each piece of tape.

Tell your child to start with their feet on a certain letter (e.g., start on letter A), then tell them to jump to different letters, using the letter sounds. For example, “Jump to the letter that makes the sound (insert letter sound).”

★ Write lower case letters on pieces of paper and put them in a paper bag or other small container. Let your child reach into the bag and take out letters. Have them say the sounds that match the letters.