



Doxey Elementary

What is LNF?

Letter Naming Fluency: Students read randomly sequenced upper and lower case letter names for one minute. **LNF** is a quick assessment of student knowledge of letter names.

Why is it important?

Alphabet knowledge is essential for learning to read and spell in English. Along with oral language and phonological awareness (knowing words are made of sounds), it represents one of the most important early literacy skills acquired by young children. (Children's alphabet knowledge has long been deemed one of the best predictors of future reading ability. Likewise, failure to acquire such knowledge is an important indicator of risk for later reading difficulties.) (Piasta & Wagner)

Who is tested and what are the benchmarks?

Kindergarten students should be able to read the names of at least 50 letters in one minute by the end of the school year to meet benchmark. If this benchmark is not obtained, don't lose hope. Continue with specific practice until they know the names of all upper and lower case letters.

First grade students should STILL be able to read the names of at least 50 letters in one minute when they return to school in the fall.

How can I help my child?

Letter knowledge influences knowledge of letter sounds and knowing letter sounds influences letter name learning. (Piasta & Wagner) Not only do our little ones need to learn the letter names, they need to recognize each letter in different font styles.

Practicing this reading skill is convenient and can be accomplished in short spurts of time. We can use environmental print (words all around us), print in books, magazines, or electronic devices, or print we've written. Practicing letter names can be playful and fun. You can also drill your child using the alphabet cards found below.

Examples:



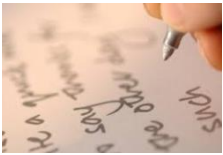
Using environmental print (including alphabet cereal or pasta) -

- Point to a letter and ask its name. “What letter is this?”
- Ask your child to identify letters they struggle to remember more often.
- You can also identify the word first. “This word says Snickers. What letter is this?” or “Tell me the letters you know.”
- Using child and family names is highly motivating for learning letter names.



Using books, magazines, or electronic devices –

- As you read along, randomly ask, “What letter is this?”
- Focus on one or two letters at a time so your child will get multiple opportunities for practice with those specific letters.
- There are many alphabet game apps available for children. Usually, we like the fact that these games keep our children quiet – but better practice will be had if the children say the names of the letters out loud as they play.



Using handwritten lists, notes, or stories –

- Write your children lists, notes, or stories.
- Read it to them and have them identify letters they know.
- Students will want to begin writing letters too. When they write or color, have them hold the pencil or crayon correctly. They can practice letter names by saying the name of the letter they are copying while they write it. Most children will almost sing the letter name because they sustain it while they write.

Practicing letter names can be done during any activity at any time. You CAN practice letter names with your child for short periods of time and in fun ways.

Alphabet Cards

Below you will find letter cards. Print the sheets then cut them. *If your child reads the letter names quickly and correctly, place the card in a “know” pile. If your child pauses too long, guesses wrong and self corrects, guesses wrong, or does not know the letter, place the card in a “don’t know yet” pile. Practice one or two of the “don’t know yet” letters then place them in the “know” pile and have the child identify the letter names of the “know” pile. (If any letter is misread, return it to the “don’t know yet” pile.) Just keep working on one or two “don’t know yet” letters at a time until all the cards are in the “know” pile.

*Keep practice sessions to only 5-10 minutes – make it fun!

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B

b

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c

D

d

E

e

F

f

G

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g

H

h

I

i

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L

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M

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N

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O

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P

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t

t

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V

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W

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X

x

Y

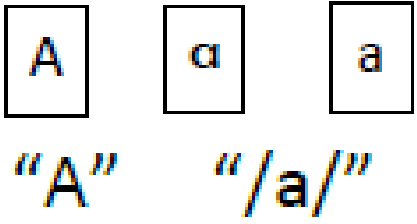
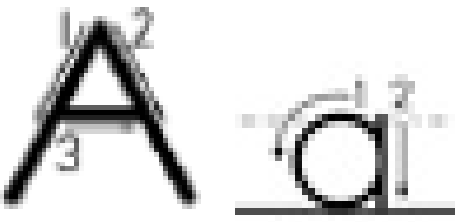


y

Z

z

What do you do if your child is struggling with this skill? Practice identifying letters using this research based routine. (Keep sessions to 5-10 minutes.)

Letters (and Sounds) Instructional Routine

<h2>Show and Tell</h2> <p>(Place letter cards in front of child. "This is the letter A. It says the sound /ă/. What is this letter? What does it say?")</p>	
<h2>Model Formation</h2> <p>(Show your child how to form the letter using the proper strokes. Say the letter as you write it and have your child do the same.)</p>	
<h2>Recognize</h2> <p>(Hold up the cards and say, "What is this letter? What does it say?")</p>	
<h2>Search and Find</h2> <p>(Lay out letter cards mixing in just a couple of dissimilar letters. Have your child identify which cards have the letter A printed on them.)</p>	
<h2>Write</h2> <p>(Have your child write the letter A, both upper and lower case using the proper strokes 5-6 more times saying the letter name as they write.)</p>	