Letter Identification

How to Help Your Child Learn the Alphabet

Children need to know the letters of the alphabet before they can learn to read. Knowing the alphabet means that your child can name both the capital and lower case letters when she sees them. Teachers call this letter identification.

Alphabet Games to Play with Children

Try out these fun activities you can do to help your child learn the letters in the alphabet. Here are a few:

Sing the Alphabet Song

Sing the song for your child and then get her to sing along with you. Finally, get her to sing the song alone. You may need to sing the song many times before your child can sing the song on her own. This song will help your child remember the order of the letters. Point to the letters as you sing.

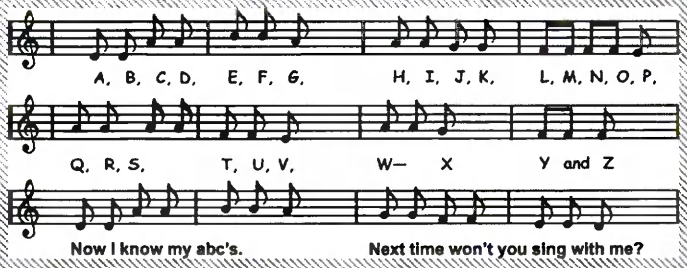
A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V
W X
Y and Z

Now I know my ABC's
Next time won't you sing with me?

Do the Alphabet Chant

If singing is not your thing, then teach your child the alphabet chant.

Give me an ABCDEFG
Give me an HIJK LMNOP
Give me a QRS and a TUV
Give me a WX, a Y and a Z.

I know the alphabet! Clap for me.

Read the Alphabet Book

Read the "My Alphabet Book" with your child. Point to the capital and lower case letters on each page. Say, "This is a capital A and this is a lower case a." Teachers call the big letters "capitals" and the small ones "lower case" letters.

Then read the word under the picture and point to the first letter of the word so your child sees the letter in a word.

Every so often ask, "What letter comes on the next page?" and see if your child knows.

Read the book several times and see if your child is learning to name each letter when you point to it.

Notice which letters your child does not know so you can use them in the next activity. Some letters can be harder to learn, like the difference between a "b" and a "d."

Letter Hunt

Cut out 2 sets of the capital letters on the included sheets.

Choose 2 or 3 of the letters that your child does not know, such as the letters your child had trouble learning in the Alphabet Book.

Keep one of each letter and then hide the other around the house.

Show your child the letter, say its name, and ask your child to find that letter.

Then show your child the next letter, say its name, and ask your child to find that letter.

When your child gets good at this game, put the whole alphabet on a table. Hide a copy of every capital letter around the house. See if your child can name each letter she finds and match it to the same letter on the table.

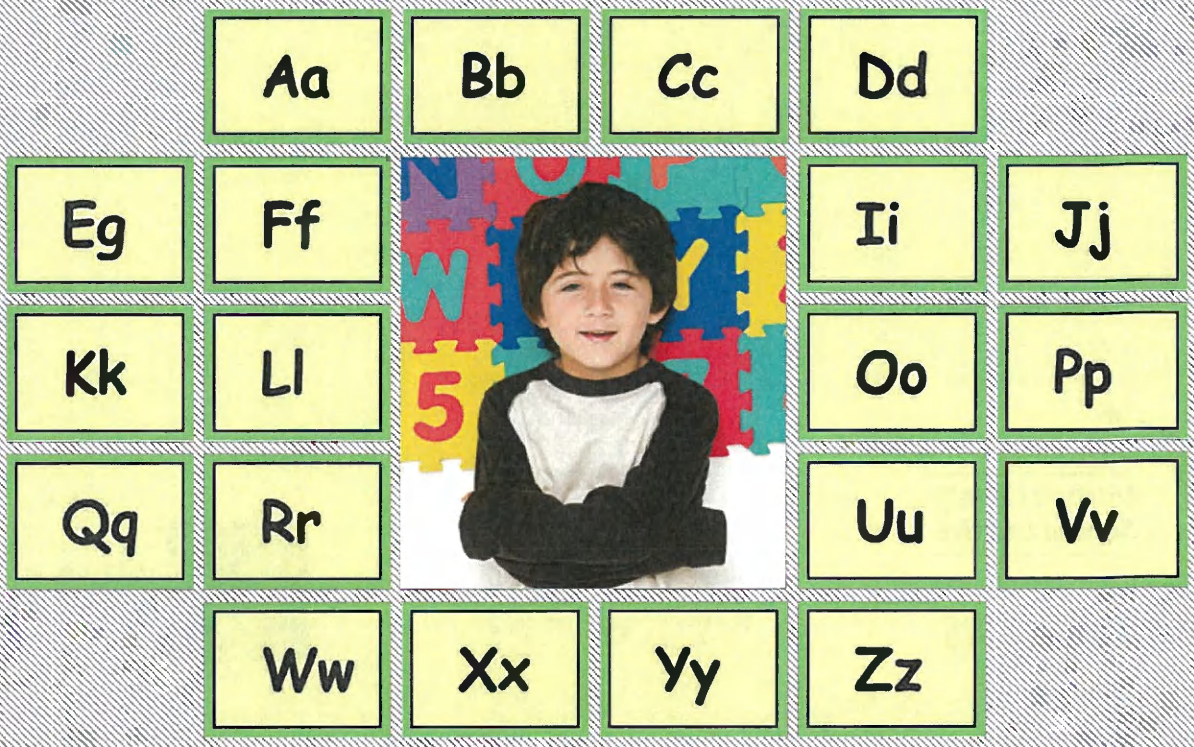
Cut out the lower case letters on the sheets and play the same game with these small, lower-case letters until your child knows the names of all the capital and lower case letters.

Letter Match

Put a few capital letters on the table. Give your child the matching lower case letters and ask him to put each lower case letter on the capital letter it goes with.

When your child gets good at this game, put all the capital letters on the table at once. Give your child all the lower case letters, and ask him to put each lower case letter on the capital letter it goes with.

Then reverse the process. Put out all the lower case letters. Give your child the capital letters and ask him to put each capital letter on the lower case letter it goes with.



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My Alphabet Book

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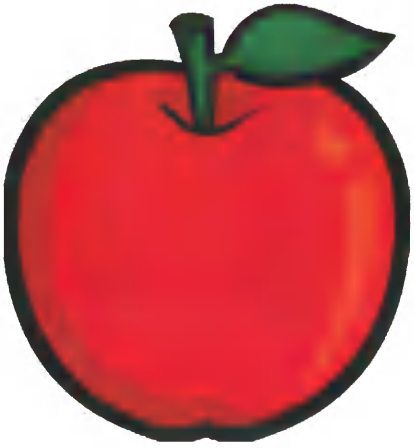
Aa

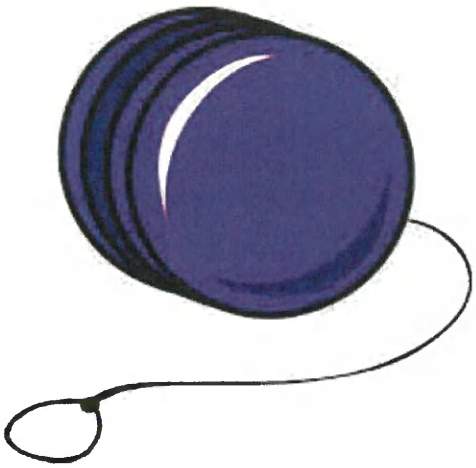


apple

Zz

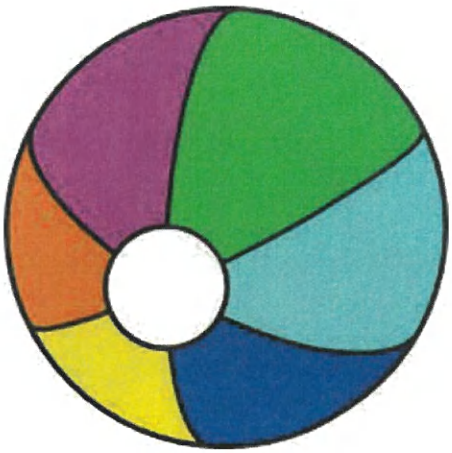
zebra

Yy



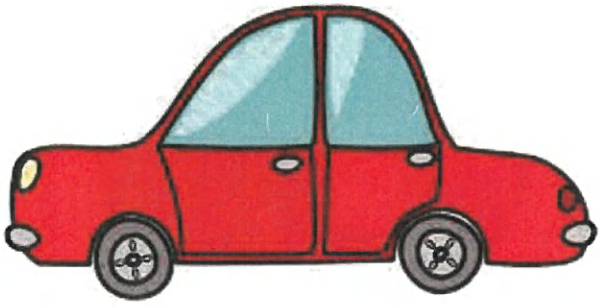
yo-yo

Bb



ball

Cc

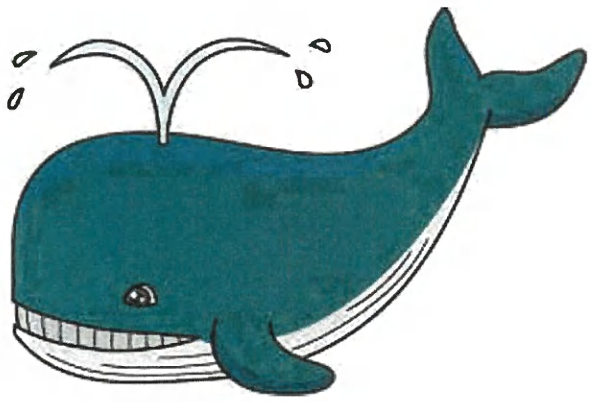


car

Xx

X-ray

Ww

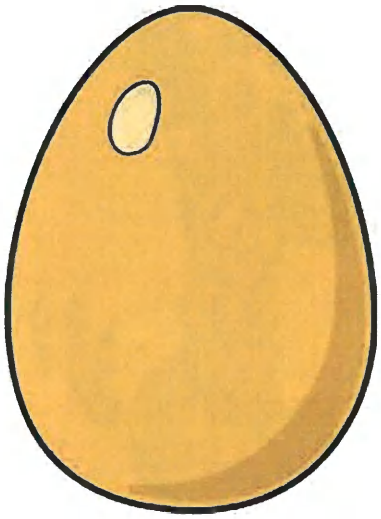


whale

Dd

dog

Ee



egg

Vv

violin

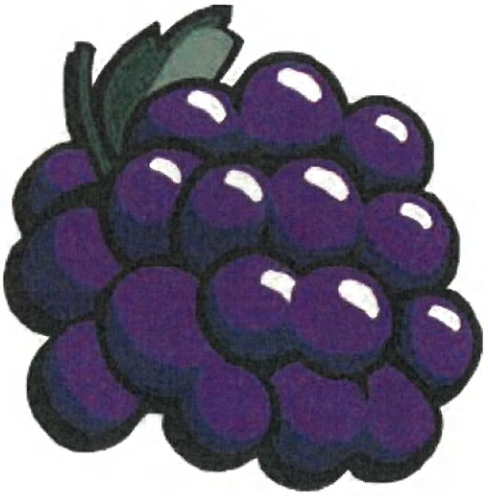
Uu

umbrella

Ff

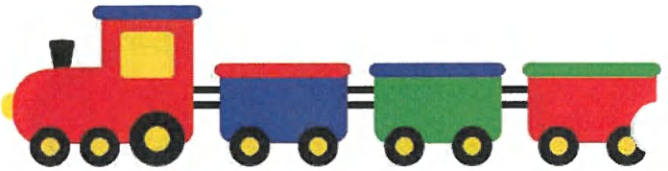
fox

Gg



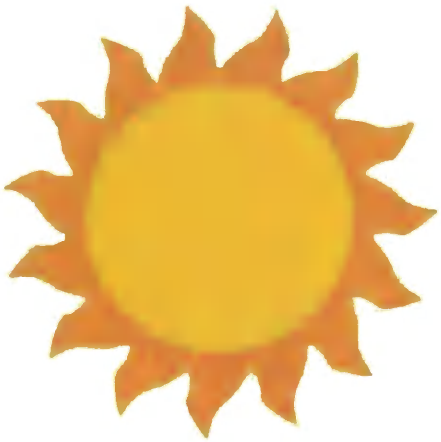
grapes

Tt



train

Ss

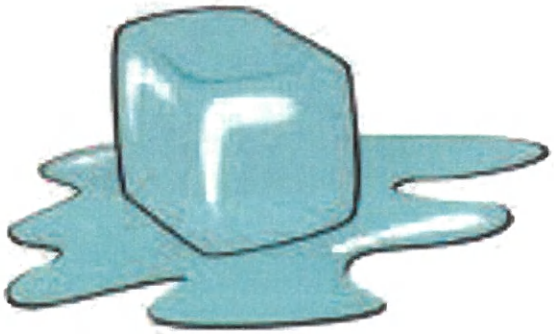


sun

Hh

hat

Ii



ice

Rr

rock

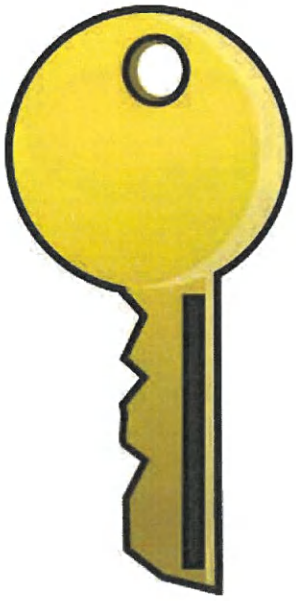
Qq

queen

Jj

jam

Kk



key

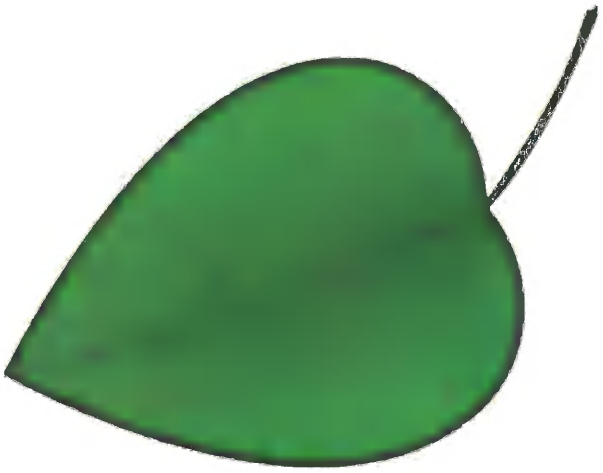
Pp

plate

Oo

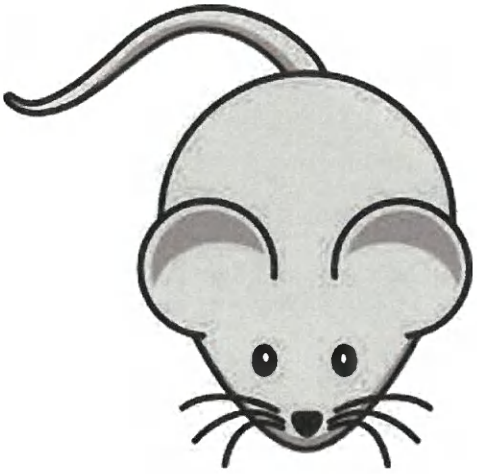
owl

Ll



leaf

Mm



mouse

Nn

nest

Letter Hunt and Letter Match Capital Letters

A	B
C	D
E	F
G	H

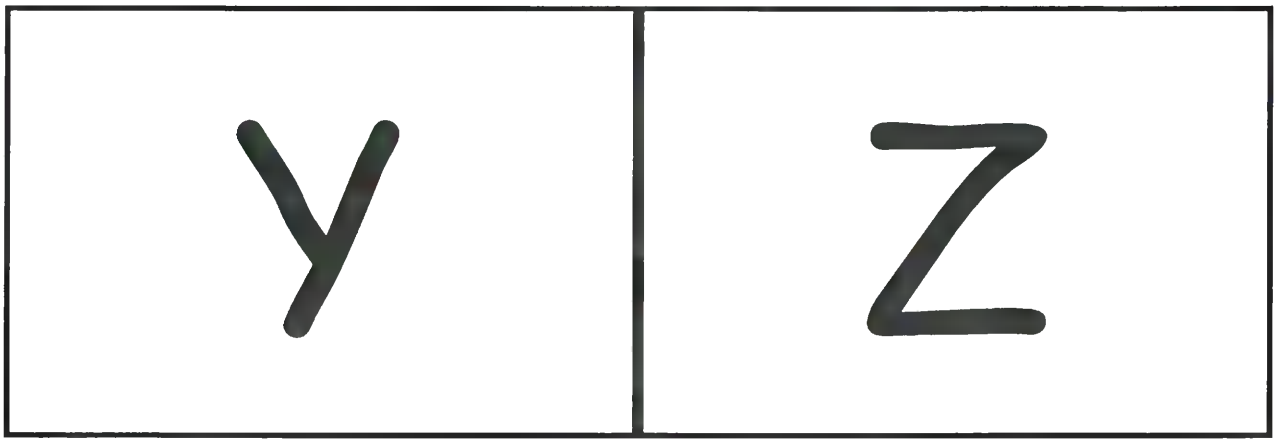
Letter Hunt and Letter Match Capital Letters

I	J
K	L
M	N
O	P

Letter Hunt and Letter Match Capital Letters

Q	R
S	T
U	V
W	X

Letter Hunt and Letter Match Capital Letters



Letter Hunt and Letter Match Lower Case Letters

a	b
c	d
e	f
g	h

Letter Hunt and Letter Match Lower Case Letters

i	j
k	l
m	n
o	p

Letter Hunt and Letter Match Lower Case Letters

q	r
s	t
u	v
w	x

Letter Hunt and Letter Match Lower Case Letters

y	z