



Resource Guide

LETTER SOUND

What is Letter Sound?	Letter Sound is the ability to match the sound of a letter (phoneme) to the letter (grapheme) and part of the alphabetic principle. The alphabetic principle is the understanding of the relationship between graphemes and phonemes and is an essential component of early literacy.
Alphabetic principle	Learning the sounds of letters is a skill that needs to be explicitly taught and is the first step in the alphabetic principle. Learning letter sounds are best taught through the use of multisensory instruction with opportunities for repeated practice.
Associative keywords	It is helpful to teach children associative keywords. The keyword is a word that begins with that letter sound. By using pictures as keywords, we can help with the recall of the beginning sound. This method is known as the cueing system. Additionally, you can present cues in groups of 3. Ex: 1- say the name of a letter while holding it up (D); 2- say the name of the keyword while holding up its picture (dog); 3- finally, say the letter sound itself (/d/)
Hand motions	It is equally effective to teach children hand motions that correlate to letter sounds, especially short vowel sounds. This is known as kinesthetic instruction.
Want more?	www.sproutlabs.com

Benchmark Milestones

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Benchmark milestones are specific goals that children are expected to achieve at certain stages of their early literacy development

BOY- Beginning of the Year; MOY- Middle of the Year; EOY- End of the Year

***Knowing a more difficult sound can impact the score**

Letter sounds are presented in order from easy to more difficult

Pre-K	BOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-4 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 5 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 6 or more letter sounds
	MOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-5 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 6-9 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 10 or more letter sounds
	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-8 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 9-12 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 13 or more letter sounds
Kindergarten	BOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-5 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 6-8 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 9 or more letter sounds
	MOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-9 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 10-13 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 14 or more letter sounds
	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-12 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 13-18 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 19 or more letter sounds
First Grade	BOY	1st-20th %tile: Can identify 0-13 letter sounds 21st-40th %tile: Can identify 14-19 letter sounds 41st-99th %tile: Can identify 20 or more letter sounds