

Working With Letters and Words

Read! Read! Read!

Read to your child often and discuss what you are reading. Model and encourage as much language as possible!

Leap Frog Fridge Phonics & Letter Factory DVD

Children need to learn the sounds of the alphabet in order to learn to read. Fridge phonics (Wal-Mart/Toys R Us) along with the Letter Factory DVD teaches children the sounds in a fun and interactive way. You will have to purchase the lower case letters separately as the game comes with upper case letters only. Word Whammer is available for those children that know the sounds of the alphabet.

Salt Box

Line a small box with black paper and add a thin layer of salt. Your child can write letters in the salt using his or her finger. Shake the box to "clean the slate".

Sandpaper Letters

Cut the letters of your child's name out of sandpaper. Glue these on to pieces of cardboard. Your child can trace his or her name with his or her finger.

Pudding Letters

Make a batch of your child's favourite pudding and scoop it on to wax paper. Help your child to use his or her finger to make letters and words.

Play Dough Letters

Draw a letter and have your child roll out pieces of Play Dough and fit and mold them together to make that letter's shape.

Spaghetti Letters

Draw a letter and have your child use cooked spaghetti to re-create the letters. Colour small batches of spaghetti with food colouring to make it more fun.

Letter Hunt

Look for letters. Pick a letter of the day and see how many everyone in the family can find. Look on street signs, in books, etc. Make it a game!

Body Letters

Help your child make letter shapes with his or her body. Some letters, like L, your child will be able to make with his or her own body. Some, like M, require 2 bodies.

Pasta Letters

Draw a letter onto a piece of paper and have your child glue small pieces of pasta on top of the letter.

Alphabet Cereal

Put 3 or 4 pieces of Alphabet Cereal in front of your child. Ask your child to eat one particular letter at a time.

Letter Sandwiches

Purchase cookie cutters in the shapes of letters. Make a sandwich and cut letters in to the sandwich using the cutters. Most kids will not eat the crust anyway.

Alphabet Puzzles

Purchase or make puzzles about the letters of the alphabet. After completing the puzzle have your child close his or her eyes while you remove a piece from the puzzle. Have your child point to each letter as he or she sings the alphabet to see what letter is missing.

Fine Motor Control Practice

Draw curly lines, shapes and letters with a highlighter or light coloured marker. Have your child trace them with a pencil. Then see if he or she can duplicate these shapes, lines and letters by him or herself.

Sidewalk Chalk

Purchase sidewalk chalk and help your child to print letters and words everywhere.

Magnetic Letters

Use lower case magnetic letters on the refrigerator, a cookie sheet or other magnetic surface to practice letter sounds, high frequency words and spelling words.

Word Wall

Put up separate alphabet letters on the wall, print new words your child has mastered on small cards and put them under the alphabet letter that has the same beginning sound.

Computer Software

Look for computer games that incorporate phonics into reading activities.

Alphabet Books

Cut a piece of paper into fourths, staple them together on the side and print an alphabet letter on the first page. Have your child cut pictures out of magazines that begin with the letter on the first page and glue them on the following pages. Label the pictures.

Post-Its & Pens

Print single letters on small Post-Its and have your child stick the Post-Its on items around the house that begin with the same letter.

Magnadoodle

These are great for the car when practicing printing letters, words, word families, spelling words, etc.

Alphabet BINGO

You can create or purchase many variations that are wonderful for practicing letter names and sounds.

Rhyming Words

Look for rhyming words in books, poetry, writing, etc. Practice making rhyming words with magnetic letters, pens and paper, or on the computer.

