

Alphabet Letter Recognition

A good tool to practice alphabet letter recognition that children enjoy using is magnetic letters. Listed below are adaptations of some fun suggestions for their use from two leading authorities in reading readiness:

Gay Su Pinnell and Irene C. Fountas from *Phonics Lessons*.

LETTER PLAY: Encourage children to play with the magnetic letters on a refrigerator or on a table. Playing with letters allows children to learn more about how the letterforms look.

MAKING NAMES: Have your child make his/her name several times and then check the letters with the name written on a card.

MAKING WORDS: Make a simple word such as *mom* or *dad* and have your child make the same word by matching each letter.

CONSONANT/VOWEL SORT: Have your child sort the consonant letters and the vowel letters.

UPPERCASE/LOWERCASE MATCH: Have your child match the uppercase letter with the lowercase letter.

ALPHABET TRAIN: Have your child put the lowercase letter in the order of the alphabet and sing the alphabet song. Repeat with the uppercase letters.

ALPHABET SEQUENCE: Select the lowercase letter "a" and have your child find the next letter. Continue throughout the alphabet doing the same thing. Repeat with the uppercase letters.

RHYMING PAIRS: Use a magnetic cookie sheet to make a three-letter word, such as cat, fan, hot, sit, etc. Say the word and then say a second word that rhymes. Ask your child to make the rhyming word below each example given.

FEATURE SORT: Have your child sort the letters in different ways, for example, letters with long sticks and letters with short sticks, letters with circles and letters without circles, and letters with dots.

WRITING WORDS: Have your child select ten different letters and practice writing the letter on paper. The magnetic letter can serve as a model.