

Letter Fun!

Enjoy the following activities with a youngster who is ready to conquer the alphabet!

Supplies: vary according to chosen activity

1. **Sing the Alphabet** ~ sing the alphabet song often so your child is able to pronounce all letters. Take care to sing the letters “L-M-N-O” slowly. I’ve heard of children confusing that part of the alphabet with the Sesame Street character, “Elmo.” When singing, use proper diction and do not rush.
2. **Trace Letters** ~ assist your child with tracing letters of the alphabet in a box of rice or sand, or in a mound of shaving cream.
3. **Tactile Letters** ~ write large letters on tag board, trace with a glue stick and sprinkle glitter or sand on the glue. Cut out letters from sandpaper. Use any of these tactile letters for letters recognition and have your child touch the letters when saying them.
4. **Letter Magnets** ~ help your child find and identify specific parts of the alphabet using magnetic letters. Give them a chance to manipulate and play with them also!
5. **ABC Twister®** ~ tape construction paper letters to the circles on a Twister® game mat. Instead of having your child put their hand on a specific color, have them look for a specific letter.
6. **It’s Magic!** ~ attach short written words to objects in your house (for example: BED and RUG.) Create a simple magic wand by taping strips of yarn or colored tissue paper to a paper towel tube. Ask your child to find a word that begins with the letter “B” and point to it with her magic wand. Then help her read the word and tell her, “It’s Magic!”
7. **ABC BOOK** ~ have your child help you write each letter of the alphabet on separate pages. Be on the lookout for family photographs or magazine pictures that have people or objects beginning with each letter of the alphabet. When you find them, gradually add them to your ABC Book. This book will be a very personal representation of the alphabet for your child.
8. **Letter Detective** ~ every child loves a magnifying glass and the safe ones have a plastic lens! Challenge your preschooler to locate specific letters either in books, magazines, or newspapers with his magnifying glass. Or you could hide letter cards throughout the house, have your child detective locate them and solve the puzzle by figuring out if the found letters spell a special word (hint: begin with their name!)
9. **Silly Putty**~ this relatively inexpensive art material can be used to lift letters right out of the newspaper! Use large print ads and then challenge your little one to write the letter she lifted with the silly putty. Assist as much as needed.
10. **Play-Dough** ~ using clay or play-dough, help your child form different letters of the alphabet. Remember to have them practice saying the letter, its sound, and a word that begins with the letter.
11. **Cookie Dough** ~ Shape alphabet letters using your favorite cookie dough and bake. Cookie cutter letters (which can be found in most kitchen stores) can be used to make cutout cookies.
12. **Dotted Letters** ~ Write letters using dotted lines and have your child trace the letters.
13. **Hopscotch ABCs** ~ create a hopscotch board with chalk on a driveway or sidewalk. Fill in the blocks with letters (in order for beginners, out of order for those more experienced with the alphabet). Jump, identify letters, and have a good time!

14. **Alphabet Dot-to-Dots** ~ some dot-to-dots use letters instead of numbers. Have fun completing these together while singing/saying the alphabet at the same time.
15. **Letter of the Day** ~ choose a letter to concentrate on all day. Plan ahead and pick a special activity to do together that begins with the letter of the day (for example, go on a HIKE for “H Day”). Or just be on the lookout for daily activities that begin with the letter of the day. Keep a list of them to see how many you actually did!
16. **Highlighting Letters** ~ children love to use highlighters. Tear out a magazine or newspaper ad/article (preferably one with a larger font size) and have your child highlight a specific letter whenever he sees it. Count the number of letters found, and write the total.
17. **Chalkboard Letters** ~ children also enjoy writing on chalkboards or slate boards. Practice chalk letters on the driveway or sidewalk too.
18. **Water Letters** ~ when outside on a hot day, give your little learner a paintbrush and bucket of water. Encourage them to paint their ABCs on the car, house, ground, etc.
19. **Body Letters** ~ show your child ways to make letter using parts of or the entire body.
20. **ABC Turns** ~ take turns while singing the alphabet together. Your child can start with “A,” then you sing “B,” then your child sings “C” and so on. Continue to the end!
21. **Bubble Letters** ~ write specific letters of the alphabet in the bubble format. Have your child use paint or markers to color.
22. **Food Letters** ~ encourage your youngster to make a letter “V” (for example) with his pretzel sticks or French fries! Ask what letter a doughnut reminds them of, and then ask them again when they take a bite from it! Think of other letter ideas when eating together!
23. **Alphabet Soup, ABC Pretzels, Cereals** ~ take advantage of learning opportunities while eating these healthy, unique foods!
24. **The Alphabet Dance** ~ Use your local library to find a CD or cassette tape of the alphabet song. Dance together while singing and make letter shapes with your arms.
25. **“Y-M-C-A”** ~ Find a recording of this original song by The Village People and show your child the arm positions for the chorus.