

## Alphabet Activities and Games

The following activities should be done on a regular basis in order to help your child "master" the alphabet and the sounds that the letters make. Five minutes per day is all that is needed (or more if they are having fun!!) Cut these cards and keep the upper and lower case letters in two decks.

Pull the following letters from both decks: A,B,C,E,Y,Z and a,b,c,e,y,z.

### **Name the Letter**

- Your child needs to be able to tell you the name of the letters and the sound that they make. **Start with the letter name only.** Hold the upper case letter up and say "What letter is this?" Then hold the corresponding lower case letter up and say "What letter is this?" If your child does not know either of them, give them the letter name. For example: you hold up the upper case "A". You say, "What letter is this?" Your child says "A". You say, "That's right. This is an "A"." You hold up the lower case "a" and say, "What letter is this?" Your child says "s". You say, "Good try. This is an "a". What letter is it?" Your child says "a". Next you hold up both of these letters and say, "They are both "A"." **This is a very important step for memory "storage" in the brain. Children need to know that they are the same letter.** Follow the same sequence for all six of the letters listed above.

### **Mamas and Babies Game**

- Place the upper case letters spread out on the floor. Next to this arrangement, do the same with the lower case letters. Tell your child to put all of the Mamas and the Babies together. Demonstrate this by picking up the upper case "A". Say, "This is an "A". Now I have to find the lower case "a"." Ask your child to continue on, with your assistance.

### **Go Fish Game**

- Shuffle the 6 upper and lower case letters together and deal 6 to your child and 6 to yourself. The object of the game is to get the most pairs. Each of you begins by placing any pairs in your hand on the table in front of you. Then your child will ask you for a card to match a card in his/her hand. Example: "Do you have a "b"?" The winner has the most correct pairs.

## Memory Game

- Using the 12 cards (upper and lower case a,b,c,e,y,z) shuffle them together then place them all face down on the floor. Tell your child to turn up one card. Ask your child, "What letter is it?" If your child labels it correctly say, "Right. Now try to find the other one that matches it." If your child does not label it correctly, say "That is a "b", try to find the other "B"." Next you take a turn and try to find a pair. This game is played like other memory games. You both are trying to collect the most pairs. **Please note, everyone (you and your child) needs to say the letter name each time the letter is turned over, even if it doesn't match.**

## Letter/Sound Match

- Once your child can label these 6 upper and lower case letters quickly and correctly, we will add the question, "What sound does it make?" At this point we expect them to know one sound for each letter.

## Sound/Letter Match

- Using the same 6 letters, use a small white board, chalk board or piece of paper. The adult says the sound and the child prints the letter that matches the sound.

## Letter Groupings and Most Common Sounds for each Letter

The letters/sounds are listed below. Once your child can do this quickly and correctly, it is time to move on to the next 6 letters. Follow all of these steps with each of the letter groups listed below: the Mama and Babies Game, Go Fish Game and the Memory Game can be used once you have gone over Name the Letter a few times. This should be followed by the letter-sound connection and the sound-letter connection.

## Letter Groupings

1. A, B, C, E, Y, Z, a, b, c, e, y, z
2. D, F, G, H, I, W, d, f, g, h, i, w
3. J, K, L, M, O, P, V, j, k, l, m, o, p, v
4. N, Q, R, S, T, U, X, n, q, r, s, t, u, x

### Sounds that Letters Make

The sounds we want your child to know are listed below with a word example. **Please note, it is very important that your child says only the exact sound that the letter makes with out adding an extra vowel For example: a "b" says just /b/ not "ba".**

A - /a/ as in apple

B - /b/ as in ball

C - /c/ as in candy

D - /d/ as in dog

E - /e/ as in elephant

F - /f/ as in fish

G - /g/ as in go

H - /h/ as in hot

I - /i/ as in it

J - /j/ as in jump

K - /k/ as in kite

L - /l/ as in like

M - /m/ as in monkey

N - /n/ as in no

O - /o/ as in octopus

P - /p/ as in pet

Q - /q/ as in queen

R - /r/ as in run

S - /s/ as in sun

T - /t/ as in time

U - /u/ as in umbrella

V - /v/ as in violin

W - /w/ as in wet

X - /x/ as in box

Y - /y/ as in yes

Z - /z/ as in zebra