

# Pre-Literacy

## Reading and Letter Recognition

Pre-literacy begins long before children enter school. You can help by reading often and conversing with your child. Talk about the world around you, ask questions, describe what you're seeing, sing, tell stories...

Below are some other ways to incorporate reading and letter recognition into your days.

- ~ Read at home every day!
- ~ Let your child see YOU reading and enjoying it, too!
- ~ **Teach nursery rhymes**
- ~ Tell stories
- ~ Show your child how you move from left to right and top to bottom when you read.
- ~ Talk about stories and characters. Encourage your child to ask questions and make predictions about what might happen next.
- ~ Don't worry if your child wants to read the same book over and over again!
- ~ Encourage "print recognition" in every day situations. Ask your child to read signs like "stop," "McDonald's" and "Target."
- ~ Talk about the letters in your child's name. Try to find them in other places- signs, books.
- ~ Play letter "I spy."
- ~ Do "cloze" sentences. For example, ask your child to finish the sentence: "Humpty Dumpty sat on a \_\_\_\_\_."

*Hands on activities to practice letters are below*

# Letter Recognition~ Pre~K Activities

from K. Cox 2003 [www.prekinders.com](http://www.prekinders.com)

## **Shaving Cream**

Put a small amount of shaving cream on the table or on a tray. Spread it out and draw letters and numbers in the shaving cream with your finger. You may want to use a smock, but if it gets on clothes, it fades away after a few minutes. When it is time to clean up, rub the shaving cream until it disappears, then wash the table or tray.

## **Bookmaking**

Show your child how to fold paper in half. Make a construction paper cover and add sheets of white drawing paper for the pages. Staple them together. Let your child draw pictures in the book and dictate stories to you to write in the book.

## **Flexible Letters**

Use pipe cleaners to form letters.

## **Letter Magnets**

Let your child play with letter magnets on a cookie sheet. Mirror Writing Breathe on a mirror to make a fog. Write letters in the fog, then wipe clear.

## **Play-dough Letters**

Press play-dough into a patty on the table. Use Legos, bottle tops, or pasta shapes to make imprints to form letters in the play-dough.

## **Name**

Write your child's name on a piece of construction paper in large letters. Glue on yarn, beans or glitter. (ALWAYS, use an uppercase letter for the first letter of a name, but write the rest in lowercase letters.)

## **Light Letters**

Write a letter on a piece of construction paper. Seat your child on carpet or place a folded towel beneath the paper. Using a blunt pencil, punch holes along the lines of the letter. Turn out the lights, and hold a flashlight to the back of the letter to see the light shine through.

## **Bleached Name**

This is an outdoor, old clothes project. Write your child's name on dark construction paper (e.g. blue, red, purple, or black) in pencil. Cheap paper works best. Let your child use a Q-tip to trace over the penciled-in name with bleach. The bleach will turn the paper white on the area that was traced.

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