

8 Great Ways to Teach the ABCs

Alphabet recognition is an important skill for early reading & writing development. It involves being able to recognize beginning letters in familiar words, distinguish between lowercase and capital letters and recognize the relationship between letters, sounds and words.

Children who have already learned how to recognize and name letters before entering kindergarten, have an easier time learning to read than do children who have not learned these skills. (U.S. Department of Education)

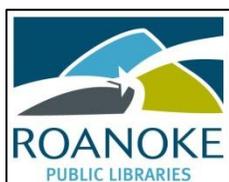
To help prepare your child for school success, try some of these simple & fun alphabet activities:

1. Sing the ABC song! Not only do children enjoy singing along, but this will actually help them understand the order of the alphabet. (For a challenge, sing the ABC song backwards!)
2. Read ABC books. There are lots of simple & engaging alphabet books for young children. Some great ones include "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom", "Dr. Seuss's ABCs" or "Eating the Alphabet". Visit your local library for more ABC titles.
3. Take your child with you to the mailbox. Look at the envelopes together and talk about who the mail is for, and who it's from – make sure to point out the first letter in the names of family members.
4. Make letter shapes out of different objects. For example, make your child's name out of playdough blocks or yarn. You can also make letters outside with sticks and rocks – be creative!
5. Let your child "type" on the computer. Open up a blank page on your screen, then set the font to a large size. Show your child how to find the letters on the keyboard. At first just let your child randomly type letters, but over time, have them try to type their name and other familiar simple words.
6. Help your child "hunt" for letters in the newspaper or in magazines. Give them a crayon or marker and they can "color" the letters. If they can use scissors, let them cut out letters and glue them on another sheet of paper to make an ABC collage.
7. Make birthday & holiday cards for friends and family (This is a great way to save money too!). You can write the words, like "Happy Birthday Grandma" and your child can color (or even just scribble) on the paper. Have your child write their own name on the card for name writing practice.
8. When out shopping or in the neighborhood point out letters on familiar signs. For example point out the letters on a STOP sign, or talk about the letter T, when you go to Target, or K for Kroger.

Most of all.....Keep it fun – don't ever force your child to play with letters. If you make it a natural part of your everyday activities, they'll soon be ready for school and ready for life!

To find out if your child is "ready to read", visit the parents page on our website

www.smartbeginningsroanoke.org/parents



The Roanoke Public Libraries offer many resources, programs and services for children and their families. If you would like more details about library programs for kids, please call 540.853.2955 or visit www.roanokeva.gov/LIBRARY