

For many Parents, the idea of teaching their child to read is daunting to say the least. Something that important; you would say; should be left to the experts, right?

Children from about 2-1/2 to about 4-1/2 are highly interested in the letter sounds, but after this age, learning the sounds seems more of a chore. The Montessori method calls this a "Sensitive Period," meaning the child is more aware of and interested in learning a certain thing at this time. For example, when a child is ready, he will notice print in the environment. If you take the time to teach the sandpaper letters to your child, he will become more sensitive to the print in his environment.

1. We don't have any website in mind however the first rule is that parents should read a lot to the kids. If they want their child to be good readers; they have to show them that reading is fun and exciting.
2. Encourage them to repeat familiar phrases from the book.
3. You can have some pictures and ask the kids to describe it and imagine the story behind it.
4. Memory Game: Kim's memory game
5. Singing nursery rhymes is also very important. It helps children to hear the sounds and syllables in words.

Listed below are more structured phonic activities for older children. Please ensure you follow the order. Each stage requires 2-3 months of practice (minimum) before moving to the next level.

1. MAKE YOUR OWN SOUND BOX

Collect small items that begin with the sound of the letters from “a” to “z”; for example a is for ant, aeroplane, apple.

Play a sound game: Select three different contrasting sounds (SAT /MIC/BLU/DEH/NGY/JFW/KZX/VQ) and three different objects, one from each sound. For example: S for Spoon, a for Apple, t for top. Then place the items in a basket and play 1 spy game. First, name the objects i.e. “this is spoon. It starts with the sound....s”. Once you have introduced all objects and their sounds one by one then begin the game.

“I spy with my eye, something that start with SSSS ”. Once the child masters the sound; then you can add a twist by asking them to look around the house and find something that start with the sound SSS.



2. RECOGNISING LETTERS

As children get more confident in recognising the initial sound in words, they can now be introduced to the letter symbols; “s”, “a” “t”using lower case flash cards only. You can make it even more fun by playing letter hunt game by looking for a letter for example letter s in a book you are reading to them.



3. MATCHING INITIAL SOUNDS WITH LETTER SYMBOLS

Select around 6 objects from the sound box, matching 3 letters. For example for the letters s, a, t; you may select 2 objects that begin with s (spoon, sock), 2 that begin with a (apple, aeroplane) and 2 that begin with the initial sound t (top, tiger). Place the three letter symbols on the table. Put the objects in the basket and ask children to match them with the letter they begin with. Encourage them to emphasize the initial sound as they place the items on the flash card.



4. BUILDING CVC WORDS

Once your child knows the sound and symbol of most of the letters in English alphabet, then they can begin to practice building CVC (Consonant, Vowel, Consonant) words. Select three (CVC) objects from the sound box. For example Cat, Dog, Bat. Help children to sound the beginning sound, end sound and the middle sound. They can use flash cards/ letter cards to build those words. At the nursery we have Large Moveable alphabets (LMA). This takes continuous practice over an extended period of time to master building CVC words.



5. READING CVC WORDS

Make a list of CVC words and encourage children to sound the initial, middle and last sound and then help children to blend the sounds. For example c-a-t is cat. To cover all the 5 levels can take 6-9 months depending on age and stage of the child. Your child's teacher can guide you at what level your child is currently working. WRITING is completely a whole different ball game that we will leave it for our next Home Learning Pack

dog	cat	fox
net	bin	bag
log	bat	pan
gun	zip	pig
fan	hat	box
mop	bed	mug

Hope you find the above information useful to support your child's learning at home. Good Luck!

REMEMBER TO MAKE IT FUN NOT A CHORE!