

Names, Letters and Signs

- # 19 Learning my name
- # 20 Discovering print
- # 21 Seeing first words
- # 22 Making signs
- # 23 Many ways to write
- # 24 Writing with magnetic letters

Playing with Sounds and Rhyming Words

- # 25 Playing with sounds
- # 26 Talking about words
- # 27 Talking about nursery rhymes
- # 28 Learning about rhyming

Making Up Stories

- # 29 Making a story up
- # 30 Many ways to draw
- # 31 Keeping drawings
- # 32 Keeping a diary
- # 33 Keeping a diary with words
- # 34 Writing words

Learning About Rhyming

- # 35 Having fun with rhyming
- # 36 Using letters to rhyme
- # 37 Rhyming words

Learning my name

Put your child's name on his/her:

- Bedroom door
- Toys
- Cup
- Drawings

Teach your child the names and sounds of the letters in his/her name.





Learning my name



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Put your child's name on his/her favorite things (blanket, dolly).
- Write your child's name in scented crayons, and let him/her smell it.
- Write your child's name in his/her favorite color.
- Write your child's name next to a photograph or portrait.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Ask your child the names and sounds of letters in his/her name.
- Have your child try to write his/her name.
- Write your child's name in uppercase and lowercase letters.



Discovering print

Point out that there are pictures and words on:

- Food packaging
- Clothing
- Buildings
- Road signs
- Automobiles
- Billboards

Help your child learn these pictures and words.





Discovering print



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about pictures and words in family photo albums, junk mail, magazines and newspapers.
- Point to pictures and words on things that your child touches often (clothes, toys, crayons, cereal boxes).
- Point to big letters in signs of familiar restaurants, grocery stores, and road signs.
- Cut out pictures and signs from cereal boxes and other products and use to make puzzles or play matching card games with your child.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- See if your child knows what signs, pictures, words and numbers mean.
- Point to letters in words while saying the words slowly.
- Have your child say the names and sounds of the letters in the words.
- Have your child write the words.



Seeing first words

- Your child will recognize words on food packaging, buildings, and other things.
- See if your child can see any other words.
- Ask your child questions about these words (What do we do with Cheerios?).





Seeing first words



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Point to words your child often sees (McDonald's or Cheerios) and ask your child what the words are.
- Say words you see and point to them.
- Ask your child simple questions about words he/she sees (Do we eat Cheerios?).

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Ask your child how he/she knows they are words.
- Ask your child where else he/she sees words.
- See if your child knows the difference between a picture, a word and a number.
- Ask your child questions to make him/her really think (What else could we do with Cheerios?).



Making signs

Help your child make signs and labels for daily routines and activities. Use pictures and/or words. For example:

- EXIT on the door for going places.
- BUCKLE on the dashboard for buckle your child's seat belt.
- BRUSH TEETH on the bathroom mirror.
- A picture of a sock for your child's sock drawer.
- A picture of an ice-cream cone on the freezer door.





Making signs



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Make signs for your child's favorite things (dolly, book, video).
- Make signs out of material (sandpaper, felt, rubber mats) so your child can feel the letters.
- Talk about the signs before doing something such as eating and going places.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

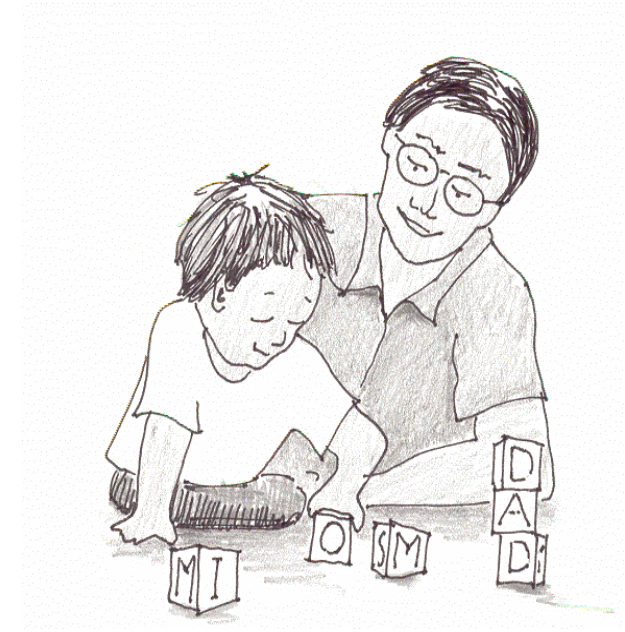
- Have your child think about more signs he/she can make.
- Have your child write the words for the signs.
- Have your child look for other signs.
- Talk about why signs are important.



Many ways to write

Your child can write words with:

- Crayons, pens, and pencils.
- Finger paint.
- Letters cut out of magazines or food packaging.
- Letter on blocks.
- Letter stickers.
- Magnetic letters.
- Wooden or foam letters, or letters made with play dough.





Many ways to write



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Play with the letters while doing something your child enjoys (bath, singing, sitting on your lap).
- Begin with only a few letters (letters in your child's name).
- Say the letter names when your child touches them.
- Write your child's name.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

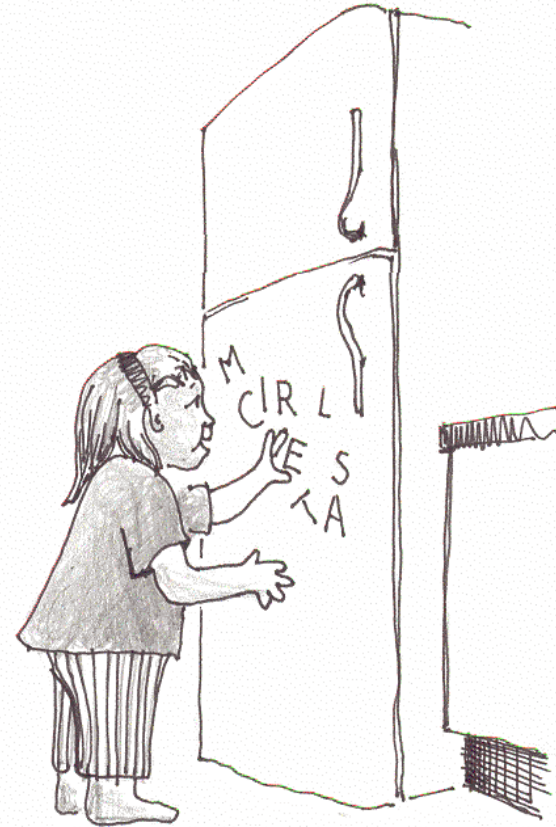
- Have your child say the name and sound of the letters.
- Talk about how your child can make words with the letters.
- Have your child write his/her name.
- Take a product with a big label and ask your child to copy its name.



Writing with magnetic letters

Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator
and have your child:

- Play with the letters.
- Write names of family members.
- Write messages to people (I love you).
- Write what he/she did that day (I went to the library).
- Write what he/she will do tomorrow (I will play at the park).





Writing with magnetic letters



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about letter shapes, colors, names and sounds.
- Write your child's name.
- Write a simple sentence to a family member (I love you).
- Write a simple sentence to describe what you and your child are doing (Mom and Jess make cookies).

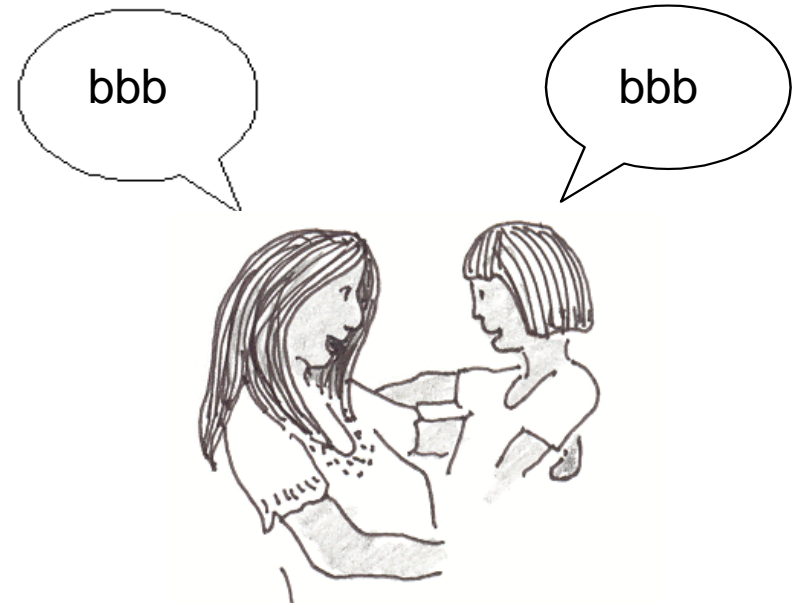
To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Let your child do most of the writing.
- Have your child read what he/she wrote back to you.
- Have your child copy what he/she wrote on a paper, or saw on a sign or product label.



Playing with sounds

- Take turns making sounds or saying words with your child.
- Make the same sound your child is making (ba-ba).
- Make a sound that is like your child's sound (ga-ga).
- Make sounds of familiar animals (dog, cat).
- Make sounds of familiar objects (car, water).





Playing with sounds

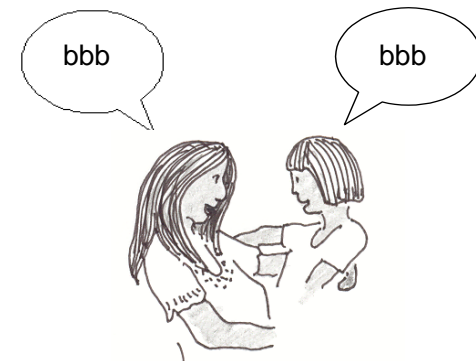


To help your child succeed, you can:

- Do this activity while doing something your child enjoys (bath, eating or playing with toys).
- Have your child make sounds by making your child happy (tickling).
- Play with toy animals or look at picture books about animals and make animal sounds.
- Play at imitating sounds of objects (e.g., sirens, wind, airplane).
- Sit back from your child a bit. Wait and see if your child makes a sound.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Encourage your child to repeat two or three sounds after you (ga-da-bo; tic-tac-toe; b-d-t).
- Say two sounds (b-p) and ask your child if the sounds are the same or different.
- Separate words into sounds and have your child repeat the sounds (ba-na-na; c-a-t).

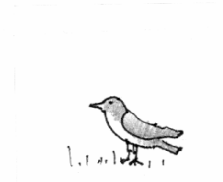


Talking about words

Talk with your child about words your child is interested in.

Talk about:

- What words mean (enormous means very big; a robin is a bird).
- The sounds in words (soap has a “s” sound).
- Long words with lots of sounds and short words (alligator, sun).
- How words make up sentences.





Talking about words



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about the sounds in your child's name.
- Say a short sentence and help your child clap or tap a sound with an object or musical instrument (drum, spoons, blocks) for each word in the sentence.
- Use familiar words, songs and books with short repetitive sentences (Let me in, Let me in; Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?).



To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Ask your child to choose a word out of a sentence (The mouse ran up the clock).
- Ask your child to tell you which word is longer (cat or alligator).
- Help your child count words in sentences or syllables and sounds in words.
- Play games where your child can do something fun for each word in a sentence or each syllable or sound in a word. Your child can: clap, tap a musical instrument, move a bead on a string, throw a sand bag in a box.

Talking about nursery rhymes

- Have your child color pictures of nursery rhymes.
- Write a sentence your child remembers about them under the pictures.
- Put the pictures in places your child often goes.
- Talk about the nursery rhymes.





Talking about nursery rhymes

To help your child succeed, you can:

- Say one or two nursery rhymes many times before doing this activity.
- Say parts of the nursery rhyme and have your child fill in.
- Have a big picture for your child to color.
- Help your child color.
- Help your child write words on the picture (Mother Goose).

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child color two pictures about the same nursery rhyme and talk about how they go together.
- Encourage your child to say the nursery rhymes him/herself.
- Ask your child simple questions about the nursery rhymes.



Learning about rhyming

To have your child hear rhyming words, you can:

- Sing or listen to songs with rhyming words (Twinkle Twinkle Little Star).
- Read books with rhyming words (Dr. Seuss books).
- Say nursery rhymes (Hickory, Dickory, Dock).
- Use silly rhymes during routines (Go to bed, cover up your head, blow your nose, wiggle your toes).





Learning about rhyming



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Say the rhymes while doing something your child enjoys (skipping, jumping or eating).
- Have your child say the rhyming words with you.
- Say the rhyming words louder (star, far, are) or clap to the words.
- Start a song or nursery rhyme. Leave out the rhyming words and see if your child remembers them (Humpty, Dumpty sat on a ___?).

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Encourage your child to say the words and verses without your help.
- Ask your child whether two words sound the same or different.
- Talk about how rhyming words sound the same in the middle and the end (*wall* has *all*, and *fall* has *all*, too).



Making a story up

- Have your child make a story up about his/her toys, make-believe friends, or a favorite book or TV show.
- Ask your child questions about his/her story (Then, what happened?).
- Ask your child questions about his/her characters (What did he look like? How did she feel?).





Making a story up



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Give your child some toys and dress-up clothes to play with.
- Talk about what your child is doing while he/she is playing.
- After your child plays, ask your child simple questions about what happened (Did Teddy sleep?).

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Help your child tell a story that has at least three parts: a beginning, a middle and an end.
- Have your child draw pictures that go with his/her story.
- Help your child write simple sentences under each picture.
- Your child can staple the pictures together to make a book.
- Encourage your child to read his/her book to other people.



Many ways to draw

You and your child can scribble or draw figures, shapes and letters with:

- Crayons, pens, and pencils.
- Finger paint.
- Chalk on a chalkboard.
- Your fingers in the sand, on steamy car windows or foam in the bathtub.

You and your child can also:

- Use stickers or cut out pictures from magazines and catalogs.
- Glue string, yarn, leaves, pebbles or dried noodles on paper.

Display your child's work on a wall, the fridge or a bulletin board.





Many ways to draw



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Let your child choose what to draw with.
- Start drawing first.
- Have your child draw a person or one of his or her favorite things.
- Help your child decide what to draw.
- Talk about what you and your child are drawing.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Ask your child questions about your child's drawing.
- Help your child write the names of things in the picture.
- Ask your child to tell you a story about the picture.
- Ask your child to write a message about the picture. Scribbles and invented spelling are ok.



Keeping drawings

- Put your child's drawings in a box or folder or notebook with your child's photo and name on it.
- Ask questions about the drawings and write down what your child says.
- Write your child's name and date on the drawings.
- Looking at them later together is fun.
- Have your child choose a drawing to take to school and share with the teacher.





Keeping drawings



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Give your child different things to make pictures with (finger paints, stamps, stickers).
- Cut out pictures from catalogs and magazines and have your child paste them.
- Use photographs.
- Set the same time everyday for your child to draw.
- Draw with your child.
- Make the notebook's cover colorful and exciting for your child.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Encourage your child to write words on his/her drawings.
- Let your child design the cover of the box or notebook.
- Have your child tell you about his/her drawings when looking back at them.



Keeping a diary

Give your child a pad of paper or notebook.

- Have your child draw pictures of what he/she did on that day.
- Help your child write down what he/she did under his/her picture.
- Help your child date it.
- Look back at the pictures and talk about them.





Keeping a diary



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Give your child different things to make pictures with (finger paints, stamps, stickers).
- Have your child cut out and paste pictures from catalogs and magazines.
- Use photographs of what your child did that day.
- Set the same time everyday for your child to draw.
- Draw with your child.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Ask your child to tell you about his/her drawings (What's your drawing about?).
- Help your child write words on his/her drawings.
- Help your child write the day of the week on his/her drawings.



Keeping a diary with words

- Let your child have a notebook of his/her own.
- Have your child draw a picture of what he/she did that day.
- Let your child write words that go with the picture (lunch, outside).
- Help your child write a sentence about the picture (I ate lunch outside today.).
- The letters don't need to be perfect and invented spelling is OK.
- Date it.
- Look back at the pictures and read what your child wrote.





Keeping a diary with words



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Give your child different things to make pictures with (finger paints, stamps, stickers, cut-out pictures).
- Take photographs.
- Set the same time everyday for your child to draw.
- Draw with your child.
- Help your child write words on his/her drawings.
- Let your child pretend to write by scribbling lines across the page.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child read his/her sentence back to you.
- Ask your child open-ended questions about his/her drawing (What did you do in the sandbox?).
- Help your child date his/her drawing.



Writing words

You and your child can write simple words when:

- Putting your child's name on a drawing.
- Putting your child's name in a book cover.
- Making and signing a card (Happy Birthday, Love, Mona).
- Making a grocery list.
- Writing messages to people.
- Taking food orders while playing restaurant or making a menu.





Writing words



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Write simple words that describe what you and your child are doing (cook, taste, stir).
- Add simple pictures to the words. The pictures will help your child recognize the words.
- Take a product with a big label and have your child copy words from the label.

To make his activity more challenging, you can:

- Let your child write words without your help.
- Have your child draw a picture and write some words that describe his/her picture (red, house and cat).
- Have your child sound out each letter.
- Have your child write simple phrases (Happy Birthday, I love you).
- The letters don't need to be perfect and invented spelling is OK.



Having fun with rhyming

- Say some words that sound alike (bat, cat, hat and rat).
- Say a short word (bike) and help your child think of words that sound like your word. (kite, mike)
- Let your child make up silly words that sound like your word (tike, zike).
- Take turns.





Having fun with rhyming



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Say softly a word that rhymes with your word.
- Show an object or draw a picture of a word that rhymes with your word.
- Give your child three words to pick from (Cat. Which word sounds like cat? Sam, rat, duck).



To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Make up silly words that rhyme (kitty, jitty, nitty).
- Use long words (teacher, elephant, dessert).
- Have your child use rhyming words in a sentence (The cat uses a bat on the rat; Beacher reads books).
- Make up songs together with your child's silly words.

Using letters to rhyme

- You can use wood, foam or magnetic letters or letters on blocks. You can also cut out letters from magazines, food packaging or make letters with play dough.
- Write a short word with the letters (Cat, Bee).
- Say the word.
- Change the first letter and say that word (Bat, See).
- Have your child do the same thing (Mat, Key).
- Talk about how the words sound alike.





Using letters to rhyme



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Take the word's first letter away, say the word's end (-at, -ee) and explain that your child can make a new word by putting a different letter in the beginning (bat, see).
- Put rhyming words under the first word, and talk about what is the same and different between the words.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Use words with two first letters that can be changed (chat, sway, clown).
- Ask your child why the words sound alike.
- Have your child make up silly words and talk about what they may mean.



Rhyming words

- Say a word you want to rhyme with (dog, cat, berries).
- Let your child make up words to rhyme with real words (log, hat, derries).
- Show your child that he/she can put different sounds at the beginning of his/her name to make words that rhyme with it (Timmy, Vimmy).





Rhyming words



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Say softly some words (bread, red, Fred) that rhyme with your word (bed) and encourage your child to say them after you.
- Give your child hints of what words rhyme with your word (What is your favorite color?).
- Say the end of your word (ed) and ask your child what word sounds like that.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Give your child longer words (teacher, apple, butterfly).
- Encourage your child to say as many words as he/she can.
- Have your child tell you why the words sound alike.

