

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

Read

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Make the story come alive! Don't be afraid to use voices and have fun with reading.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Encourage your child to participate: filling in rhymes, chanting refrains, making sounds, and acting out parts of the story.

Talk about the story. Help your child relate it to their own experiences.

Sing

Apples and Bananas

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas.
I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas.

I like to ate, ate, ate ayples and banaynays
I like to eet, eet, eet eeples and baneenees
I like to ite, ite, ite iples and baninis
I like to ote, ote, ote oples and banonos
I like to ute, ute, ute uples and banunus

Old McDonald Had Some Letters

Old McDonald had a book, E-I-E-I-O
And in that book he found an a, E-I-E-I-O
With an ay, ay here and ah, ah there,
Here an ay, there an ah, everywhere an ay, ah
Old McDonald had a book, E-I-E-I-O.

Old McDonald had a book, E-I-E-I-O
And in that book he found b, E-I-E-I-O
With a buh, buh here and a buh, buh there,
Here a buh, there a buh, everywhere a buh, buh
Old McDonald had a book, E-I-E-I-O.

Repeat with additional letters.

Alphabet Beat

First clap your hands.
Then stomp your feet.
Everybody do the alphabet beat.
Apple, Apple, Apple - a - a - a,
Apple, Apple, Apple - a - a - a,

Wave your arms high.
Swing your arms low.
The alphabet beat is the way to go.
Blue, Blue, Blue - b - b - b
Blue, Blue, Blue - b - b - b

Move to the left.
Move to the right.
The alphabet beat is way out of sight.
Car, Car, Car - c - c - c
Car, Car, Car - c - c - c

Shout it out loud
Whisper down low.
Just one more alphabet beat to go!
Dog, Dog, Dog - d - d - d
Dog, Dog, Dog - d - d - d

Now give a high five to a nearby friend.
The alphabet beat has come to the end!

Talk

Practice sounding out different letters. Start with consonants. As you sound out each consonant, ask your child if they can think of any words with that sound in it or that starts with that sound. Then practice long and short vowel sounds.

Using the puzzle, line up the interlocked puzzles in alphabetical order. Beginning with "Aa," name the letter aloud and make the "a" sound used in the word "apple." Point to the apple picture and say, "A is for 'Apple'." Encourage the child to repeat what you say. Continue in alphabetical order.

Using the puzzle, lay all of the picture pieces face up and inspire the child's creativity by using the pictures as details in a story you make up together. For example, you might say, "Let's take a special trip to the zoo today! Should we fly in a jet, ride a horse or drive a car? Which animals will we see? What will we eat for lunch?" Encourage the child to use their imagination and have fun!

Write

Use the letter pads and magic board to practice writing letters. Have your child open *Alphaprints: ABC* to a random page and practice drawing the letter featured there.

Have your child trace letters in sand, shaving cream or hair gel in a bag for a fun, sensory way to practice writing.

Play

Play with the puzzle pieces provided. Once your child finishes one of the puzzles, try to come up with other things that start with that letter.

Grab a favorite stuffed animal or puppet that your child has at home. Make a letter sound and encourage your child to feed the stuffed animal/puppet with the letter that makes that sound. Have your child's stuffed animal/puppet spit out the incorrect letters and gobble up the right answers.

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.