

LETTER-SOUNDS FOR LETTER DAY ACTIVITIES

The following is the rough order of sounds as they develop in children's speech. You do not need to teach these sounds in this exact order. However, it is important to do these activities with sounds that the child can articulate easily. Avoid words with the initial letters q, sh, ch and th, because the written letters do not correspond to the speech sounds (e.g., the first sound in "church" is not a "c" sound as in "cat").

Start with these letter-sounds: w, p, b, d, t, m, n, h, y

Do these letter-sounds next: f, v, s, z, g, *k/c (*k and c have the same sound but are different letters. Teach them separately.)

Do these letter-sounds last: j, l, r

Remember that this activity is teaching your child to listen for the **sounds** in words. Often alphabet books choose pictures to depict a letter by the way it is **spelled** not the way it sounds (e.g. "cheese" as a /C/ word; "giraffe" as a /G/ word). If you see this, do not include that word in your game. To reduce confusion, it is important to be consistent. Choose simple words and choose words that sound the way they are spelled. The following is a chart of letters and sounds as they should be taught in this activity.

Letter-Sound	Sample Words	Letter-Sound	Sample Words
W	water, worm, wet, window	F	food, fork, fox, fan
P	pot, paint, pear, pool	V	violin, van, vase, vacuum
B	boy, bed, bike, ball	S	sock, soap, sun, spoon
D	door, dime, doll, dog	Z	zoo, zebra, zipper
T	toe, toy, truck, tree	G	goat, gate, game, grass
M	mop, mail, milk, man	k	kite, kangaroo, king, kiss
N	net, nap, neck, nose	c	cat, cake, cookie, car
H	house, hill, horse, head	j	juice, jar, jacks, jelly
Y	yogurt, yo-yo, yard, yellow	l	light, lion, lip, leg
		r	rake, rain, raisin, rock