

A Guide for Parents: Ways of “Knowing” the Alphabet



A Checklist of
Alphabet
Knowledge

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What an exciting moment it is when your child first sings the whole Alphabet Song correctly by himself or herself! It's an important landmark along the road to reading. What are some of the other ways a child needs to "know" the alphabet to ensure continued success in literacy? Here are a few!

- The child can sing or say the name of each letter separately (no "elemenohpee")
- The child can say the alphabet without singing it.
- Given a letter, the child can continue saying the alphabet from that point.
- Given a set of several letters, the child can locate a given letter.
- Given several consecutive alphabet cards out of order, he can correct the order.
- When the child is told a letter name, he can write the letter.
- Using letter cards, the child can match all uppercase letters to lowercase forms.
- The child can write both uppercase and lowercase forms of all the letters.
- Given a set of letter cards, the child can put them in correct sequence.
- When shown a letter, the child can say a word that begins with that letter.
- When told the name of a letter, she can say a word that begins with that letter.
- When told a word, the child can name the beginning letter.
- Given a letter, the child can produce the sound of the letter.

I can't believe I know
The Whole
Alphabet!



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Linda