
The ABC Song is catchy, but we teach letter sounds before letter names. In order to introduce the sounds, we use Sandpaper Letters.

This Montessori material may be crafted at home using stencils, sandpaper and thin pieces of wood. We order our sandpaper letters from www.heutink-usa.com, and they are also available from other Montessori websites. If your child is demonstrating interest in letter sounds, consider using this method, proven to work for over 100 years! Children enjoy this method of learning because it engages the senses and is not tedious like rote memorization can be to a child.

A FEW TIPS

- Introduce the sound of the letter before naming the letter.
- Sensitize the fingers by washing them. You may use a special bowl for this process, or the kitchen sink works as well!
- Isolate the sound of each letter as much as you can. Children need to hear the singular sound first, not a consonant/vowel blend.
- The attached information will provide you with the sounds to use. You will be amazed at how organic the process is of identifying sounds and building words once the sounds of the letters have been mastered. The Sandpaper Letter technique also helps with pre-writing skills. The child should trace the sandpaper letters in the same manner as which they would write the letter.
- Be sure to use proper format for tracing the letters, and the child will learn the correct formation of letters at the beginning.
- On the child's hand, we write the letter they are working on so that when they look down at their hands, it will remind them of the letter they are mastering.
- Remember, only two letters at a time, three maximum so as not to overwhelm the child. After mastery, add another set and then review the ones you have already introduced.

Letter Sounds

A as in apple	B as in box	C as in cat	D as in dog
E as in elephant	F as in frog	G as in grass	H as in happy
I as in ink	J as in jam	H as in happy	I as in ink
J as in jam	K as in king	L as in lid	M as in mother
N as in nut	O as in otter	P as in pup	Q as in quick
R as in ring	S as in snake	T as in top	U as in umbrella
V as in van	W as in wall	X as in extra	Y as in yellow
Z as in zoo			

Order to introduce letter sounds as practiced by the Montessori School of Rome

The sounds should be introduced in the following order and in sets of 3's.

c, a, m

l, e, d

t, l, s

g, o, n

p, u, r

b, k, f

j, w, q

v, x, y

h, a, z