

Appendix B6

How to Make an ABC Book

1. Take half-sized sheets of paper and staple them together to make a book (4 x 11 inches) with a total of 26 pages, one for each letter in the alphabet. Add a cover and back page. Write the title--(Your child's name)'s ABC Book--on the front cover. If he/she wants, let your child decorate the cover of the book.
2. On each page, write the uppercase and lowercase letter (for example, Aa, Bb, Cc) in the alphabet that your child already knows. There should be one set of letters on each page. If your child knows the uppercase letter name but not the lowercase letter name (or vice versa), write only the letter he/she knows. There will be chances to add more uppercase or lowercase letters later. Just leave enough space to fill it in later. If he/she has not yet mastered the name and sound of a letter, leave that page blank.
3. Each day you work together, focus on a few letters at a time. For each page, review the name of the letter and the sound it makes. Working together, brainstorm different words that start with that letter name and sound. For example, for the letter B, you might think of words such as bear, ball, brother, beach, etc. Let your child pick a word that is important to him/her to represent that page. Have the child draw a simple picture to go on that page next to the letters.
4. Then, show your child how to "read" the page. Point to each letter and the picture and say aloud: "B – b- beach." Be sure to say the letter name when reading the page aloud and NOT the sound. It is important that your child is fluent in the names of letters. Be sure to point to each letter as you read. Now your child has a picture (with the sound) to match each letter name. As your child adds pictures, he/she will have a whole book to read.
5. After you have filled the book with pictures for letters that are known, start adding the letters that your child needs to practice. Perhaps add one or two new letters at a time. Go back and fill in the pages or letters that have been missing thus far. Let your child see you write each letter, and say the name and the sound the letter makes. Follow the previous directions about brainstorming words that start with that letter name and sound.
6. Once your child's ABC book is complete, have him/her read the book regularly and have it handy when doing writing activities together.