



## Letters, Letters, Letters!

Dear Families,

Children are naturally interested in the letters they see in their world. You don't need flashcards or computer games; instead, take advantage of "teachable moments" with some of these ideas.

1. Point out letters in your home (on cereal boxes, household items, clothing, and appliances).
2. As you travel in the car, talk about letters on stores, restaurants, and signs.
3. Magnetic letters are a must! Children can play with these on a refrigerator or cookie sheet. Start with one or two letters and slowly add more. Point out the lines, circles, and unique configurations of each letter. Talk about the sound each letter makes. "This is the letter and it makes the sound ."
4. Look for crackers, cookies, or cereal in the shape of letters. You can also purchase letter-shaped cookie cutters, sponges, blocks and other toys that will spark your child's interest in letters.
5. Talk about letters as you read to your child. "Can you find the letter on this page?"
6. Write name of family members on index cards and attach them to the refrigerator or a poster. Talk about the different letters in each person's name.
7. Invite your child to dictate stories to you about their artwork or photographs you have taken. (Carefully write down what your child says and point to the words as you read them back to him or her.)
8. Write the words for objects in your child's room on sticky notes. Play a game where your child matches up the words with the objects.