

Early Literacy Planning Tool based on Every Child Ready to Read2®

Letter Knowledge/Exploring Letters

- Goals:** Children demonstrate awareness of alphabetic principle: that letters represent sounds of spoken language.
 Children demonstrate awareness of letters, as special category of graphic that can be individually named.
 Children use writing implements to communicate through written representations, symbols, letters.

Birth to 18 months

Storytime Provider/Educator/Adult	Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers opportunities for children to play with balls, blocks, and other toys with a variety of shapes Shares books of shapes, bold pictures, stark contrast 	Explore geometric shapes using hands, eyes, and mind
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers opportunities for children to match shapes, i.e. flannel boards, simple puzzles, games 	Play with shape toys, though often may not match correctly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sings songs that name shapes 	Explore and recognizes shapes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides children with objects, saying name of objects and describing how they are visually alike and different; allows time for exploration 	Engage in sustained gazing or tracking object with eyes Recognizes characteristics of objects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes action rhymes and action songs to develop small and gross motor muscles 	Imitate small and gross motor movements

18 to 36 months

Storytime Provider/Educator/Adult	Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about shapes, describing the shapes Provides opportunities to play with shapes using toys and a variety of materials 	Identify simple objects by their shape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plays matching games (e.g. with flannel board) 	Show interest in patterns, ability to compare/match
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about visual similarities and differences of objects in pictures in books, with materials in craft activities, with props and play manipulatives 	Explore similarities and difference of objects (e.g. color, shape, size)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for children to manipulate objects and to play with puzzles 	Notice the relationship between objects, solving simple puzzles and matching similar shapes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prompts children to recite or sing the letters of the alphabet Shares enjoyable alphabet books and/or points out letter in a book 	Recite song with letters of the alphabet, with assistance Show interest in letters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides writing explorations related to fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and postural control 	Draw horizontal and vertical lines Position body to be able to write Label pictures using letter-like marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for open-ended play, encouraging symbolic play 	Use symbols or pictures to represent what is said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses and talks about words that describe spatial relationships (up, down, above, below, between, etc.) while reading books, providing instructions, etc. Includes songs and movement activities that describe or incorporate spatial relationships 	Explore spatial relationships Imitate motions describing spatial relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for children to draw, using paper or other materials Provides opportunities to write down what child says about his/her drawing Points out letters in child's name, or encourages adult to do so; name written in upper and lower case letters 	Adjust body position to enable drawing/writing Pretends to write on paper, maybe without regard to location or direction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides physical activities to practice letter shapes (make letter with hands, body, playdough, yarn on floor—walk the letter, etc.) 	Use bodies to become familiar with how letters look
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for children to play with shapes and letters, especially those in child's name Provides both upper and lower case letters 	Recognize shapes and some letters

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Letter Knowledge continued

36 to 60 months

Storytime Provider/Educator/Adult	Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prompts children to find the same letter in different media (e.g. books, posters, signs) 	Identify letters to match letter name
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages children's movement while singing songs and doing movement activities that depict shapes Offers a variety of opportunities for children to draw shapes (e.g. writing on paper, using body motions to draw in the air, on the floor) 	Draw basic geometric shapes (e.g. circle, triangle)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides physical activities to practice letter shapes (make letter with hands, body, playdough, yarn on floor—walk the letter, etc.) 	Use bodies to become familiar with how letters look
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points out shapes found in letters 	Associate the names of letters with their shapes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes fingerplays and craft activities (may include use of scissors) for small muscle development used in writing 	Participate in activities that support small muscle development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prompts children to match some letters and their sounds 	Correctly identify ten or more letters of the alphabet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for children to manipulate letters (e.g. magnetic, foam letters, letters on flannel board) and uses them to spell out words Provides nametags or other opportunities for children to talk about letters in their name or other words of interest; uses both upper and lower case letters 	Recognize that sounds are associated with letters of the alphabet and that they form words Use letter-like shapes, symbols and letters to convey meaning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities to write Write child's name or provide opportunities for child and/or parent/caregiver to write child's name; shows both upper and lower case letters 	Write name or some letters of name Label pictures using letter-like marks and letters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points out letters in words in books; shares enjoyable alphabet books Encourages children to join in a variety of songs related to letters (e.g. BINGO) 	Recognize that sounds are associated with letters of the alphabet and that they form words

All ages

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Models the activities and articulates their importance for language and literacy development to parents and caregivers
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