

ABC and Phonics Flashcard Practice

Dear Families:

Our goal is to enable your child to say the letter and its sound instantly by sight recognition while also fingerspelling the letter. We want your child to know each of the ABCs and their corresponding sounds automatically, without having to think about it for several seconds. Your nightly commitment to singing the entire *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* chart and then practicing (playing games) with four to eight ABC/phonics flashcards (or the entire set!) will greatly accelerate your child's literacy.

Some ways to play with flashcards (five-minute games):

1. **Use these cards as a simple flashcard game.** Show the card and challenge your child to quickly say the letter and sound. Make a stack of the cards he or she instantly knows. Give your child a high-five for effort.
2. **Lay four to eight cards out on the table face-up.** Point to a card and ask your child to say the letter and sound and to sign the letter and key phonics symbol. Mix them up and do them out of sequence.
3. **Let your child teach you the fingerspelling and sign language for each card.** Switch roles. You be the teacher.
4. **Put the cards in a basket or hat and pull them out one at a time.** Ask your child to quickly say the letter and sound.
5. **Say the sound of one of the alphabet flashcards and ask your child to point to or to pick up the card that matches the letter sound and say the letter.**
6. **Brainstorm a list of words that contain the sound that a certain letter makes referring back to the key phonics symbol.** Look around the room or in the refrigerator. B/b/bear and B/b/butter, banana, bread..."
7. **Select one or two letter/sound cards that are not automatically known for your child yet, and remember to review them the next day.**

Keep it playful and be enthusiastic. Always start with the letters and sounds your child already knows, giving them **positive feedback and encouragement.** "Good for you. You already know these sounds!" "Last week you didn't know...now look at how many you have learned!" "You can do it!" "Wow! You know all those letters, sounds and even American Sign Language! Let's go show Grandma what you've learned." "Soon you will know every letter and sound and become an expert!"

With Appreciation,