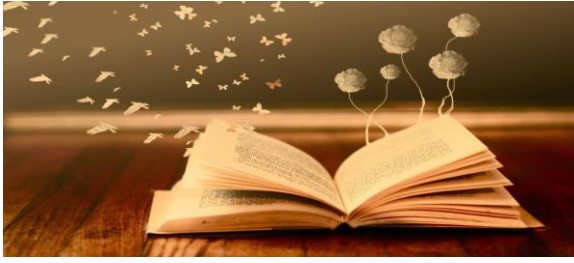


# Summer Literacy Fun



## Paper Plate Alphabet Puzzles

This activity took only a minute or two to pull together and it lasted a while!

To get started you want to cut paper plates in half. We tried to cut each plate a bit differently. After we cut one plate then we wrote a lowercase letter on one half and the corresponding uppercase letter on the other half. Then mix up the pieces and your child will find the pieces to put back together. These can have 2 upper case, 2 lower case, or one of each on each plate.

## Letter Sound Bingo

Make a grid on a piece of paper. Include upper and lower case and choose the number of letters based on how many letters your child knows. (3X3, 3X4, 4X5, 5X5, 6X6, etc.) Pull letters (either plastic or written on paper). Show your child to see if they know the letter and give help, as needed. Say the letter sound and see if your child knows the letter to cover. Give help as needed.

## Sound Hunt

Go on a hunt around your house for things that begin with letter sounds. "Let's go search for things that start with /p/." (picture, popcorn, plant) Start with the letters they know and then work toward letters they are learning. Noah will have to hunt for the n sound. He could locate a nest, newspaper, Nerds candy, nerf balls.....

Read Dr Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham. Have your child try to fill in the rhyming word. This is a very familiar classroom book with his own version.



## I Spy

Instead of spying things that are certain colors, spy things that start with a certain sound. "I spy with my little eye something that starts with /b/." (bag, basket, ball)

Exaggerate the beginning sound of common words when speaking to your child. "It's time for b b b b bed." Ask them what they hear or if they know the letter that says /b/.

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## Syllable Hop

Everyone hops in time to the syllables of a word. Depending on what the kids understand, this could be a shadow activity – you say the word, model it, and then have the kiddos copy what you did. Say words that the children know and have fun hopping around!



## Sound story

Make up a silly story and have the children listen for that sound. \*\*While I'm telling the story, listen for words that start with "s". When you hear them, touch your side. "One day Steve the Snake went to the sandy beach. He saw a sea serpent in the sea. The serpent jumped out and slithered toward Steve. He tried to slice him with his slimy teeth!

\*\*While I'm telling the story, listen for words that start with "n". When you hear those words, touch your nose.

## Fill in the Rhyme Blank

Read a rhyming picture book many times so that your child knows it by heart, Now read it aloud, leaving the last word unsaid so your child can fill in the blank. You can emphasize rhyming words by using an extra-dramatic voice on the relevant rhyming words.

Sing songs like Eensy-Weensy Spider, Baby Bumblebee, Hokey Pokey, The Name Game, or A sailor went to sea, sea, sea to see what he could see, see, see, but all that he could see, see, see, was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea!

## Alphabet Bingo

Make a grid on a piece of paper. Include upper and lower case and choose the number of letters based on how many letters your child knows. (3X3, 3X4, 4X5, 5X5, 6X6, etc.) Pull letters (either plastic or written on paper). Show your child to see if they know the letter and give help, as needed.



## Alliterative Names

Instead of calling a child 'Billy', call them something alliterative like 'Brilliant Billy!' They will like the compliment and some find it very funny as well, which is not a bad thing! The funnier things are, the more children like to repeat them.

Some sounds are harder than others to think of names for, but 'silly' names are fine for this too. You can keep the same names for each child if you are really organised, but I always just make them up as I go along, so you always get lots of variations.

Tap rhythm sticks to songs. It helps to hear the beat or syllables in words.

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## Color Chant Rhymes

Using a box of crayons and these rhymes. See if your child can find the color of crayon with the rhyming clues.

*So many crayons, they're dancing in my head!*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with bed? (red)*

*So many crayons, I could draw a crown. Can you find a crayon that rhymes with frown? (brown)*

*So many crayons, that is true.*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with glue? (blue)*

*So many crayons for us today.*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with tray? (gray)*

*So many crayons, they make me feel mellow.*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with Jello? (yellow)*

*So many crayons make me blink!*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with wink? (pink)*

*So many crayons—we don't need to fight.*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with bite? (white)*

*So many crayons I've never seen!*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with bean? (green)*

*So many crayons we need to pack.*

*Can you find a crayon that rhymes with sack? (black)*



## Rhyming Tag

Similar to Freeze tag, once a person is tagged, they can't move. To unfreeze the person, someone else calls out a word and the frozen person must reply with a word that rhymes to get back into the game.



## Matching Easter Egg Letters

Use those plastic Easter eggs. Write the capital letter on the top half and the lower case on the bottom of the egg. Place them in a basket or bowl. Let your child sort and match the same letter.

Expansion: Child makes the sound of the letter and then names it.

Ex; /D/ name is D.

## Pen Pal

Start a pen pal with someone you are unable to visit with right now. Help your child write the letters they hear.

# Summer Literacy Fun

Praise your child as he or she writes a message using pictures, scribbles, letters, or words.

Have your child dictate what he or she wants to say, and show your child how you slowly say the words, listening for sounds as you write them.

Write your child's message in a light-colored pencil or marker and have him or her trace the letters in a darker color. Make a line for each word your child wants to write, and then have your child write letters to represent the sounds in the words. (It's OK if he or she only hears a sound or two in each, at first.)



## Spoon Letter Matching

Write the alphabet letters on the top center of each spoon. Make a capital and lowercase spoon for each letter. Turn the spoons upside down, and lay them out in a grid. You may want to only do 8-10 letters at a time so that the memory game size is manageable. Then, have the kids play their preschool letter matching game. Turn over two spoons. If they are a pair, you have a match. If not, turn them back upside down, and it's the next child's turn. When you find a pair, you get to keep the spoons. The goal is to see who can find the most matches by the end of the game.



Higgety Piggety Bumblebee, won't you say your name with me. Clap the word parts of the child's name-Bob-by, An-a-lee, Deb-bie

## Make Rhyming Simple and Random

Adding rhyming fun to everyday life is easy-peasy! And if my 4 year old was writing this he would add, "lemon-squeezy!" I like to add silly nonsense rhyming to my conversations with the kids. If it's time for dinner, I say we're having "pasta-basta!" If it's time to get dressed I say, "Let's put on your socksy-wocksy!" Almost always, he will chime in with his own version.

## Kick the Syllable

Grab a couple of kick balls or soccer balls, if any are handy. If not, the kiddos can pretend to be kicking a ball instead. This is another one that would be great outside! If inside, I'd suggest a smaller, softer ball of some kind. Say a word slowly and have the kids will kick out every syllable in a word. If some balls are on-hand, set them up based on the word. For example, 'snow' would have just one ball, while 'kitten' would have two. Kids can kick the ball for each syllable.