

Play with The Teaching Train supports the development of beginning literacy in your child. Below are two versions of play: simple and enhanced. Please use the simple version, a combination, or create your own.

The simple version of play involves:

- * Setting up the train..the engine to your child's far left , the cars within easy reach
- * Providing the word/picture cards to your child
- *Take turns choosing a card
- *Read the card emphasizing the initial sound
- *Ask for the sound of the beginning of the word
- *Ask which letter makes that sound
- *Ask where in the alphabet that letter falls—beginning ,middle or end
- *Have your child place the word/picture card in the correct car.

Here are some of the activities you and your child can do with each other to enhance the learning play with The Teaching Train.

- I. Facilitate your child's orientation by teaching the concepts of vertical, horizontal, oblique and curved.... often and especially prior to introduction of each new letter.
 - A. Use your whole body
 - B. Use both your arms
 - C. Use just your fingers
 - D. Demonstrate with chalk, crayon, marker or pencil
- II. Introduce the concept of left and right with focus on the left.
 - A. Provide some kind of marker your child can wear on their left hand.
 1. slap bracelet
 2. sticker
 3. removable tattoo
 4. Stamp
 5. ribbon
 6. Use your imagination
- III. Introduce one letter at a time, both the upper and lower case (prior to each new train car)
 - A. Use the name of the letter
 - B. Use the sound of the letter
 - C. Draw the letter for your child
 - D. Have your child trace the letter in the air with their "writing finger"
 - E. Provide tactile practice in creating the letters by placing one of the letters into a

sandwich bag (over time and often, but after introduction)

Provide a variety of substances (one at a time) to use as a tracing agent.

- a. Play Dough
- b. Clay
- c. Raisins
- d. Cereal
- e. Stickers
- f. Foil
- g. Washable marker
- h. Use your imagination

IV. Introduce the picture cards

- A. Say the name of the card
- B. Emphasize the initial sound and ask for the letter
- C. Clap the syllables
- D. Introduce the idea that there are different kinds of words.
 1. words that are person, place or things (noun)
 2. words that are movements (verb)
 3. words that describe things (adjective)

V. Find real life examples that start with the letter of interest

- A. Tape the letter that corresponds to the object's initial sound to the object
- B. Name and create food that have the initial sound of focus

www.mrsjonesroom.com/jones/foodalphabet.html

www.actionalphabet.com/alphabetfoods.html

Food Alphabet - YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCu2FBU3G4c

- C. Verbalize and model a movement that represents the letter of study

<http://www.prekinders.com/pdf/Photo-Alphabet-Actions.pdf>

<http://thehometeacher.wikispaces.com/file/view/abc%20movement%20cards.pdf>

<http://thehometeacher.wikispaces.com/file/view/Body%20-%20exercise%20abc.pdf>

- D. Do the same for moods or feelings

<http://idyournotions.com/list/adjectives+a/>

<http://www.searchingwithin.com/journal/abptb/feel.html>

KidsLife - The A-Z of feeling words www.kidslife.com.au/Page.aspx?ID=1424

- E. Modify objects or use adjectives with the initial sound of choice

<http://www.momswhothink.com/reading/list-of-adjectives.html#Adjectives List>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/wordlist/adjectives.shtml>

<http://www.thefreeresource.com/> › [Teaching](#) › [Language Arts](#)

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