

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Write a letter to a friend or family member. Your child can tell you what to write, add the stamp to the envelope and help take it to the mailbox. This supports the development of oral language skills, vocabulary and print awareness - the understanding that print has meaning.

Make cookies in letter shapes. This is a tasty way to develop letter knowledge - the understanding that letters are different than numbers and have sounds.

Work it out. Give your child the opportunity to crumple up scrap paper or junk mail and develop those finger and hand muscles.

Hand tracing. Trace letters and shapes on the back of your child's hand with your finger. Say the name of the shape or letter as you trace. For preschoolers, ask them to close their eyes and guess which shape or letter you drew and then let them draw shapes on your hand while you guess. This activity builds letter knowledge.

Learn new fingerplays. Fingerplays like "Where Is Thumbkin?" allow toddlers to practice coordinating words and finger motions.

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin? (Hide hands behind back)
Here I am! Here I am! (Show left thumb, then right thumb)
How are you today, sir? (Wiggle left thumb)
Very well, I thank you. (Wiggle right thumb)
Run away, run away. (Hide left hand behind back, then right hand)

On the Go Tip:

Make flash cards of shapes, letters and numbers using index cards or a notebook, and let your child trace the shape outlines with their fingers while on the go.

My 5 Favorite Books:

