

Literacy Games to Play at Home

to Reinforce Letters, Letter Sounds, and Sight Words

I put together these ideas in response to requests for ways that families can help to reinforce “reading readiness” skills at home. The following games are fun ways to provide your child with some extra practice. Each game offers multiple skill levels at which you and your child can play based on his or her individual literacy development. Please note that these are “FOR FUN,” optional activities, which the children should not be forced to do. ☺

	Skill emphasis	Your child will	Examples (what you say)
Level 1	Letter recognition (capital or lower-case)	Identify letters by their names	“Find the letter <i>B</i> .”
Level 2	Letter sounds	Match the written letter with the sound the letter makes	“Find the letter that makes the /b/ sound.” (You say the letter <i>sound</i> , not the letter <i>name</i> .)
Level 3	Word segmentation	Hear the different sounds that make up words and identify either beginning or ending sounds of words.	“Find the letter that is at the beginning of the word <i>bat</i> .” (You can “stretch” the word by saying /b/ /a/ /t/ to help your child hear each sound.)
Level 4	Sight word recognition	Identify words	“Find the word <i>have</i> .”

If your child is struggling with particular letters or words, make sure that you include them on the game sheets!

Parking Lot

You will need a small toy car, such as a matchbox car. On a blank piece of paper, draw a parking lot with 10 spaces (see attached sample). Ask your child to drive the car to certain letters, letter sounds, or words that you say.

Bingo

Make a 4x4 or 5x5 grid. If two or more people want to play, then you will need to make a grid for each person; make sure that the letters or words are scrambled in different orders on each player’s sheet.

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Tic-Tac-Toe #1

This is a good way to practice handwriting and spelling. Instead of using X’s and O’s, use:

- ⌚ the capital and lowercase versions of a certain letter
- ⌚ two different letters

🕒 two different words

Tic-Tac-Toe #2

Make a tic-tac-toe grid, and write a different letter or word in each space. You can play by making the usual *X*'s and *O*'s *or* you can cover the spaces with two types of coins or other markers (colored bottle caps, etc.) instead. Before a player can claim a space, s/he must identify the letter or read the word in that space.

I-Spy

This game does not fit with the four levels of play listed above. You can play I-Spy by focusing on objects that begin with a certain letter or that rhyme with a certain word.

Letter example: “I spy with my little eye something that starts with *D*.”

Rhyming example: “I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with *hair*. It’s something in this room. It’s a _____.” (Answer: *chair*.)

HAVE FUN! (And please remember that these games are optional!) 😊

Ms. Meyer