

## Alphabet Knowledge

Your child will learn to name all of the capital and lowercase letters throughout this year. As we work on a new letter, I will send home several practice materials—block letters, handwriting practice pages, and SmartStart DVDs. Here's how to use them.

### Block Letters

Plan a fun way for your child to decorate large block letters with pictures or items that start with the target letter. Here are some ideas.

Aa: glue on animal crackers	Nn: glue on pieces of newspaper
Bb: draw blue bubbles	Oo: glue on O shaped cereal
Cc: spread glue, sprinkle cookie crumbles	Pp: spread glue, sprinkle pepper
Dd: spread glue, sprinkle on dirt	Qq: draw question marks
Ee: glue on egg shells	Rr: color red
Ff: draw fish	Ss: spread glue, sprinkle sand or salt
Gg: glue on green grass	Tt: glue on tree twigs
Hh: punch holes, or draw hearts	Uu: draw umbrellas
Ii: draw insects	Vv: draw vegetables, or glue on veggie straws
Jj: glue on jelly beans	Ww: glue on wooden Popsicle sticks
Kk: trace keys	Xx: draw X's, or glue pieces of paper or yarn in X shapes
Ll: glue on leaves	Yy: color yellow
Mm: glue on marshmallows	Zz: draw zig zags

### Letter Trace

Have your child practice writing letters a few minutes a day.

- Trace the shape of a letter against something textured. This helps your child's brain notice and remember the shape more easily. Fill a cookie sheet with a layer of sand, salt, rice, corn meal,

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### SmartStart DVDs

The SmartStart DVD sets include letter writing instructions for each letter. Capital letter instructions can be found on the *ABCs & Such* DVD, lowercase letter instructions are on "Letter Sound Songs." Before he or she practices writing the letter(s) of the week, have your child watch the writing instructions for that letter.

The *ABCs & Such* DVD also includes 13 ABC songs. Play a couple of ABC songs each day to help your child become familiar with alphabetical order, letter forms and letter names.

### MyBackpack App

Go to [www.waterford.org](http://www.waterford.org) or search "Waterford MyBackpack" in the Apple Store to download Waterford's free app. Open the app on your mobile device, select Sing-Along, and scroll down to Alphabet. Let your child choose one of the alphabet songs to play.

or even chocolate pudding, and have your child practice writing the letter with their finger. Start out doing it together, until you are sure that your child is doing it correctly.

- Have your child practice writing letters using the handwriting practice pages your child's teacher sent home. Tip: Make practice pages reusable with a sheet protector and a dry erase marker. Put the practice page in the sheet protector and let your child write with dry erase markers. Wipe the sheet protector clean when finished.

Every once in a while, have your child practice letters she has already learned.

## Library

Take a trip to the library. Here are some books you might want to check out:

*Alphabet City*, S. Johnson  
*Alphabet Under Construction*, D. Fleming  
*Alphablock*, Christopher Franceschelli  
*Backseat A-B-See*  
*D is for Dancing Dragon*, Carol Crane & Zong-Zhou Wang  
*Dr. Seuss's ABC*, T.S. Geisel  
*Eric Carle's ABC*, Eric Carl  
*Fraidyzoo*, Thyra Heder  
*Racecar Alphabet*, Brian Floca  
*Z is for Moose*, Kelly Bingham