



# Helping at Home

By: Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Miodrag

## Letter Naming and/or Letter Recognition

- Locate upper and lower case letters in magazines, using magnetic letters, books, etc.
- Read alphabet books.
- Locate and identify letters in road signs
- Cut out letters in magazines and then group (use a variety of fonts).
- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) is a valuable website if a computer is available.
- Practice printing letters. Fun ways to do this are using crayons, writing with markers, and using your finger to write the letter in shaving cream.
- Play "Letter Bingo"-create a bingo grid and have your child write letters in the boxes. Say a sound and have your child find the letter that makes that sound.

## Blending and Isolating Sounds

- Point to various objects and have your child say the sound at the beginning of the word. Ex. point to ball and say what sound do you hear at the beginning.
- Point to various objects and have your child say the sound at the end of the word. Ex. point to dog and say what sound do you hear at the end.
- Play "I Spy"-tell your child that you spy something that begins with a certain sound and have your child find something that begins with that sound. ex. I spy something that begins with /b/. Your child may say ball, book, etc.
- Play "I'm Thinking of a Word" and say the separate sounds you hear in the word. Your child will then blend the sounds (put them together) to figure out the word. Ex. I'm thinking of a word that has /b/ /a/ /t/. What word am I thinking of? **You can reverse the roles and have your child try to say the sounds.**
- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) is great for this, too.

<h2 style="text-align: center; color: #E67E22;">Rhyming Words</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read or say nursery rhymes and songs. Have your child say the words that rhyme.</li> <li>• Play a rhyming game where you say a word and the child says a word that rhymes.</li> <li>• Identify rhyming words in books you have at home.</li> </ul>
<h2 style="text-align: center; color: #6A329F;">Fluency</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read with your child so he/she can hear how to read smoothly. For example, demonstrate pausing at commas and stopping at periods.</li> <li>• Echo reading-You read a sentence and have the child read it back to you.</li> <li>• Choral reading- You and your child read at the same time. Your child will try to keep up with you. (You may need to slow down a little.)</li> <li>• Take turns reading with your child. Your child should always follow along and track the print with their finger.</li> <li>• Read a story multiple times and try to improve with each reading.</li> </ul>
<h2 style="text-align: center; color: #E74C3C;">Comprehension</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pause after each page of a book to talk about what just happened.</li> <li>• Pause to make a mental picture of what is happening.</li> <li>• Predict what might happen next.</li> <li>• Questions to ask while reading a book include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is the main character?</li> <li>2. What is the setting?</li> <li>3. What is the problem?</li> <li>4. How would you describe the main character?</li> <li>5. What do you think will happen next?</li> <li>6. How did they solve the problem?</li> <li>7. What was the genre (type) of story?</li> <li>8. Does the story remind you of something that has happened in your life?</li> <li>9. Why is the setting important to the story?</li> <li>10. Were there any words you did not understand?</li> </ol> </li> <li>• You could write the previous questions on notecards and place in a bag. When your child finishes reading a page have him/her pull a card and try to answer the question.</li> </ul>
<h2 style="text-align: center; color: #27AE60;">Spelling</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children get bored writing with just a pencil. Practice writing spelling words using crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.</li> <li>• Have you child practice by writing the word in the air with his/her finger.</li> <li>• Write the spelling words on paper and hang around the house. The more your child sees the word the more the spelling will stick in their mind.</li> </ul>