

Alphabet ARC (Rainbow)Activities

Using magnetic letters are a great way to help children become familiar with the letters in the alphabet. Please see the following activities below for setting out the alphabet arc.

The child should be sitting in the middle of the arc with MN directly in front of him. Think of the child sitting in the middle of the arc of a rainbow.



Teach the markers.

A MN Z.

On the following lessons, the child should always put out the markers first.

Setting out the Alphabet Arc

There are a number of ways of doing this.

- A to Z
- At random from a heap
- MN as the starting point and then one to left, and one to the right
- Reverse order
- Set out in random order then change to alphabetical order
- The child should name each letter as they put them out

Checking

Check that the letters are the right way round. Ask your child to self-check. Use the alphabet line if necessary. Make sure that the position on the imaginary line is correct

Touch and Name

- Touch and name each letter in alphabetical order. Use a timer to speed up responses, but ensure that the letter is being touched as it is said – this is essential for multisensory input.

Increasing alphabet knowledge

- Touch and name letters given as quickly as possible.
- Close eyes and point to where a given letter is.
- Trace a letter on the your child's back – s/he names it then finds it in the arc
- Identify letter before/after a given letter
- Hide a letter, close the gap and ask which letter is missing

Vowels

- Ask your child to find the vowels and take them out of the alphabet line
- Ask your child to touch a consonant
- Say the vowels and consonants out loud to identify the difference between vowel and consonant sounds
- Teach that vowels can have a long and short sound
- Teach that long vowels are 'voiced' and short vowels are 'unvoiced'. Ask your child to feel their voice box as they say the sounds
- Ask your child to say the short sounds of the vowels ä ě ĭ
ō ů

- Ask your child to say the long sounds of the vowels ā ē ī
ō ū
- Give word beginning with a short vowel sound for pupil to mark
- Give one syllable word with a middle vowel sound for student to translate into the letter and the sign.

Labelling Skills

- Alphabet conversations - name alternate letters forward and backwards.

Use alphabet activities to

- Practise, revise spelling patterns.
- Use the letters to
 - Spell CVC words
 - Practise onset and rime patterns
 - Build blends
 - Add suffixes and prefixes
 - Practise spelling choices/rules

Putting the Alphabet Away.

Use this to revise or practise

- Put all vowels markers away first
- Push the letters into a pile and put them away in alphabetical order.
- Put away alternate letters

The alphabet strip can be used for alphabet activities. as an alternative if the sequence is secure.

You can supplement alphabet activities using commercially produced worksheets.

The next stage in alphabet activities is dictionary work.

The alphabet can be divided into quartiles

ABCD

EFGHIJKLM

NOPQR

STUVWXYZ

It is necessary to know where letters are in the alphabet.