

ABC Crafts: Tips for Working on Pre-Reading Skills

by Marie Rippel

The ABC Crafts series is perfect for slipping in important pre-reading skills while engaging in creative hands-on activities. Pick and choose ideas from this list and you'll effortlessly increase your child's pre-reading skills!

Print Awareness

- Print the My Lowercase ABC Book ([download here](#)) and allow your child to write his name on it. Add each craft you create to your child's book.
- Run your finger under the words on the craft instructions to show that you are reading the words on the paper. Have your child share the craft with a family member or friend. Highlight the fact that his friend can make and enjoy the same letter craft by reading and following the craft instructions.
- Point out matching words when possible. For example, show your child the word *paper* on the craft instructions. Then compare this to the word *paper* printed on the package of paper.

Letter Knowledge

- Reinforce the letter of the day by forming it with bits of leftover scrap paper.
- Show your child the first letter of the craft name. For example: "A Is for Apple Craft. Apple starts with A!"
- Have your child search for the featured letter on your craft supplies, such as the glue stick or the package of printer paper.

Phonological Awareness

- Say the name of the craft you are preparing and emphasize the first sound of the words in the title. For example: "Z...z...zucchini. Zucchini starts with /z/!"
- Emphasize words that begin with the sound of the featured letter. For example, for /p/, search for words like *printer*, *paper*, *pencil*, *page*, and *paper punch*. For /s/, look for words like *scissors*, *stapler*, *size*, and *stripes*.

Listening Comprehension

- Have your child help you gather the needed craft supplies as you read the list aloud.
- Read the craft instructions aloud and have your child complete the steps that he is able to do, such as gluing the pieces together or drawing details with a marker.
- Begin by giving one instruction at a time, such as “Please bring me the yarn,” and then build up to two-part instructions, such as “Please bring me the yarn and a piece of paper.”
- Have your child explain the craft to a family member or friend.

Motivation to Read

- Share your own enthusiasm for making crafts with your child. Let your child see how exciting it is to be able to read and create crafts together.
- As you and your child enjoy the crafts you have created together, point out that you have to be able to read in order to follow instructions and create fun crafts.
- Look at some other craft books, preferably those with color photographs. Explore the crafts together and talk about special things that you might make in the future.