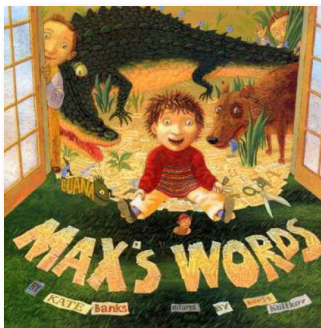


Pick a letter, find a word

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Put some plastic, wooden or hand-written alphabet letters into a paper bag.
- ❖ Shake up the bag and invite your child to reach in and pick a letter.
- ❖ Look at the shape of the letter together and say its name. Talk about how the letter makes a sound at the beginning of a word, e.g. "B" makes a "buh" sound.
- ❖ Look around the house to find objects that start with the letter sound. Try to find five things whose names start with that sound.

A good read-together book



Max's Words by Kate Banks

You will need a bag, some plastic, wooden or hand-written letters, and a paper and pencil to make labels.

This activity is good for matching letters and sounds, and listening for the sound a letter makes at the beginning of a word.



Hints for success

- ❖ Start with letter sounds that are easy to hear, e.g. B, D, H, L, M, N, R and T.
- ❖ Explain that some letters make similar sounds, e.g. C and S, K and G, F and W.
- ❖ Add Q, V, Z and X only when your child can play the game with confidence.

Let's look for things that start with "R." It makes a "rrrr" sound.

That's a "B." It makes a "buh" sound.

Ways to say it

More ideas for Pick a letter, find a word

Try this way

- ❖ Write on labels the names of objects found around the house, and then put the labels on the objects. Help your child look for labels containing words that start with the letter he or she has picked from the bag.
- ❖ Make a collection of objects that start with the same letter. Put out a box or basket with a letter on it, and invite your child to find things to go into the collection.



Crafts

Make alphabet letters with playdough or clay. Bake them in the oven and then paint them. Use them to make words.

Early reading

Look through old magazines with your child to find things that start with a letter you have picked. Help your child cut out some of the pictures that match the beginning letter. Make a book by pasting each picture on a separate sheet of paper and putting the pages together. Write the words for the objects on each page. Put a title on the book, and then read it together.

Book link

Max's First Word by Rosemary Wells

I Use My Brain

I use my brain to think, think, think.
I use my nose to smell.
I use my eyes to blink, blink, blink.
I use my throat to yell.
I use my mouth to giggle, giggle, giggle.
I use my hips to bump.
I use my toes to wiggle, wiggle, wiggle,
And I use my legs to jump.

Author unknown