

Ways of Learning Letters

The name of the letter

Show a child a letter card and ask him/her to tell you the name of the letter. Use flexible practice for sorting magnetic letters and saying the name of each letter as they move them around.

The way the letter looks

Talk about the shape of the letter. What is the composition of the letter . . . circles, sticks, tails, etc. Children sort magnetic letters by attributes during independent practice in centers, allowing them to explore.

The sound the letter makes

Show your child a letter card and ask him/her to make the sound that the letter produces. Remember that each vowel makes two sounds.

The feel of the letter in the mouth

Focus on the pronunciation of the letter and the production of the sound. Where is your tongue when you say the letter and what is it doing? Where are your teeth? (It helps to look in a mirror for this exercise.) "Watch my mouth and then you try it."

The movement of the letter as it is written

Talk through the method of producing the letter in printed form.

A word associated with the letter

Example: *A, a, apple* gives children an anchor to use as a memory tool. That's why it is important to have access to multiple ABC books and charts.