



# Fundamentals of Letter Knowledge

Module 6

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# Module 6: Letter Knowledge

## Introduction

Alphabet knowledge is an essential component of learning to read and write. Young children learn best when information is presented in a meaningful context connected to experiences. Rote practice or drill can result in frustration and negative attitudes toward learning. Alphabet learning should be implemented in intentional and playful ways.

251, 2010



## Components of Alphabet Knowledge

Alphabet knowledge is a broad term that includes:

- letter names.
- features/shapes of letters.
- Letter Direction
- Letter sound correspondences.
- letter formation
- uppercase and lowercase

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Why Is Alphabet Knowledge Important?

## Alphabet Knowledge and the Alphabetic Principle

The alphabetic principle is the system for linking letters and letter  
\_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_.

- Understanding words are composed of printed letters.
- Understanding the relationship between printed letters and spoken sounds.
- Brings together \_\_\_\_\_ awareness and alphabet knowledge.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Alphabet Knowledge Instruction

Children learn best when letters and sounds are presented in meaningful and interesting ways and when teachers help children identify, name, and form letters through:

- children's names.
- \_\_\_\_\_ letter activities.
- direct, explicit letter instruction.
- environmental \_\_\_\_\_.
- books.
- \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.
- letter walls.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Learning about Letters**

Through early experience with letters, children learn:

- a letter has \_\_\_\_\_ that distinguish it from every other letter.
- letters have names.
- letters have sounds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ movements are required to make letters.
- letters have a set order in the alphabet.
- there are a limited number of letters.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Letter Walls**

A letter wall is a visual and interactive tool primarily used to build and reinforce alphabet knowledge. CIRCLE recommends daily use of a letter wall as a fun and effective way to engage pre-k children in learning about the characteristics, names, and sequence of the letters in the alphabet. As well, it also helps develop the understanding that letters form words when put together and can be used to support vocabulary development.

## Letter Wall Set-up

- Position at \_\_\_\_\_ eye level.
- Place words placed directly \_\_\_\_\_ the matching letter.
- Include children's names with pictures.
- Include thematic words with pictures or icons.
- Write words in all \_\_\_\_\_ letters, except nouns.
- Attach words so they can be taken \_\_\_\_\_ and put \_\_\_\_\_.

## Using the Letter Wall

<b>Circle Time (whole group)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do a variety of name, letter and word activities.</li><li>• Refer to it when reading aloud and during shared writing.</li></ul>
<b>Center Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Include the letter wall as part of the ABC center or a center of its own.</li><li>◦ Include a variety of materials for children to use</li></ul>
<b>Small Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan letter and name activities to use in small group instruction.</li></ul>
<b>Throughout the Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use letter wall games and activities as transitions.</li><li>• Refer to it as opportunities arise.</li></ul>



### **My Name is Important**

Children's names can be a meaningful springboard for learning letter names and sounds.

- Make comparisons between one name and other names.
- Make connections between a child's name and other words.
- Draw attention to specific letters of a name and distinguishing features.

### **Notes:**

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## **Alphabet Books**

Alphabet books are another great medium for targeting letters. They can be used to help children learn letter names, build vocabulary, learn the sequence of letters, and associate a sound with a letter.

### **Notes:**

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## **Environmental Print**

Another way to expose children to letters is by bringing environmental print into the classroom. It is often the first kind of print many children recognize.

### **Notes:**

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## ABC Center

Including a center dedicated to alphabet learning ensures a focus on intentional, meaningful letter activities. CIRCLE recommends locating the ABC Center in close proximity to the letter wall.



## Reinforcing Alphabet Knowledge in Other Centers

<b>Writing</b>	<b>Classroom Library</b>	<b>Art</b>
<b>Pretend &amp; Learn</b>	<b>Math and Science</b>	<b>Construction</b>

**Notes:**

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Children learn best when letters are presented in meaningful ways and when teachers help children identify, name, and write letters that occur in:

- names.
- hands-on alphabet activities.
- environmental print.
- books (alphabet books, stories, and informational text).
- shared writing experiences.
- letter walls.

**TAKEAWAYS:**

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