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Teaching Alphabet Letters

Focus on lowercase letters primarily using books and environmental print. We see lowercase letters more frequently than uppercase letters.

Beginner Skill Level

- Layout Uppercase Pages that spell child's name.
- Give child the pile of slices that only include child's name.

- Write child's name on a blank slice.
- Set up as shown below.
- Give child a pile of letters that comprise their name.
- Child spells out their name, placing slices next to the A on the page- in order.

Name Skill Mastery

Once child knows how to spell his name, and knows the name of the letters that comprise the name:

- Practice until child recognizes both upper and lower case of the letters of her name.
 - With this skill mastered, increase the letters added to the name letter pile.
 - This supports critical thinking skills, vs memorization.
 - This method supports self confidence.
- (do not worry about letter sounds during this activity)



Teaching Alphabet Letters

Name Skill Mastered

- Continue adding to the lower-case slice pile a few letters at a time for each practice session, until child quickly pulls out her name letters automatically.
- Ask what child if he would like to spell Mom or Dad, next.
- Continue with the same steps, the next name he spells.
- This provides "buy-in", we enjoy learning more when we get to choose what we are learning.
- Use this same method as child practices matching letters to other words and names. Encourage ONE syllable names.

• **Once child understands how to play the game because she's played it several times**, incorporate letter sounds. Say the sounds and the child can repeat after you, but *don't* focus on the sounds if it detracts from the child learning what each letter looks like.

