

Hello Parents and Family Members!

The LRC-Staff thanks you for choosing this *Learn and Create* activity. Activities in this series are aligned to the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#) and include the grade level and student objectives on the Activity Plan. Modifications to the activity may be needed to increase student engagement based on need and/or grade level.

In this activity, ***Young Authors Become Engaged Readers***, you will help your child strengthen reading and writing skills by creating books and exploring print concepts. Children should have some prior knowledge regarding the letters of the alphabet by either name and/or sound. The setup for this activity should take approximately 10 minutes as you prepare the blank book pages and gather materials listed below.

If you would like more information about the topic of this or other activities, please visit the [Online Resources](#) section of our website and/or the [Alexandria Researcher](#) to find materials available to be borrowed from our resource lending library. Library materials are available through our [LRC Xpress service](#) with curbside pickup at this time.

Enjoy!

The LRC-S Staff



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Young Authors Become Engaged Readers

Grade Level	Pre-K through Kindergarten. May be modified to accommodate all emergent readers.
Content	<p><i>"Print Concepts demonstrate how print works. Print concepts include (a) the relationship between spoken and written language; (b) concepts of words, letters, and sounds; and (c) the directionality of print (in English, left to right and top to bottom)."</i></p> <p>https://www.nj.gov/education/ece/rttt/ImplementationGuidelines1-3.pdf</p>
New Jersey Student Learning Standards	<p>NJ Preschool Learning Standards:</p> <p>RF.PK.1 Begin to demonstrate understanding of basic features of print.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, page by page. b) Recognize that spoken words can be written and read. c) Recognize that words are separated by spaces. <p>RI.PK.4 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unfamiliar words in informational text.</p> <p>RI.PK.7 With prompting and support, tell how the illustrations support the text (information or topic) in informational text.</p> <p>Kindergarten Learning Standards:</p> <p>RF.K.1. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page. B. Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters. C. Understand that words are separated by spaces in print. D. Recognize and name all upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet. <p>RF.K.3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Demonstrate basic knowledge of one-to-one letter-sound correspondences by producing many of the most frequently used sounds of each consonant. <p>RF.K.4. Read emergent texts with one-to-one correspondence to develop fluency and comprehension skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Read emergent-readers with purpose and understanding. B. Read grade level text for purpose and understanding.

Objective	Parents and family members will be able to support children as they learn the essential skills needed for emergent readers to make continued progress in reading and writing.
References	<p>Clay, M. M. (2017). <i>Concepts About Print, Second Edition: What Has a Child Learned About the Way We Print Language?</i> New York: Heinemann.</p> <p>Reading Rockets. (n.d.). Reading Basics: Print Awareness. Retrieved from Reading Rockets: https://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading-basics/printawareness</p>
Supplies Needed	<p>For today’s activity, you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardstock or construction paper • Markers and/or crayons • Scissors • Pipe cleaners • Post-it tape and highlighter tape (optional) <p>For the extension activity, you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnetic letters and cookie sheet • White board and dry erase markers

View the *Young Authors Become Engaged Readers* video to:

1. Learn about print concepts and think about where your child is in relation to reading and writing growth.
2. Learn how to make books from cardstock or construction paper.
3. View samples of completed books and understand how to use these books to teach or reinforce specific skills.
4. Create books at home with your child to support learning.

Sample Skill Scripts

Read stories and ask students questions about *Print Concepts*

To assess and/or reinforce *Print Concepts* skills with your child, enjoy books together often. After you have read a book together, ask your child follow-up questions. For example:

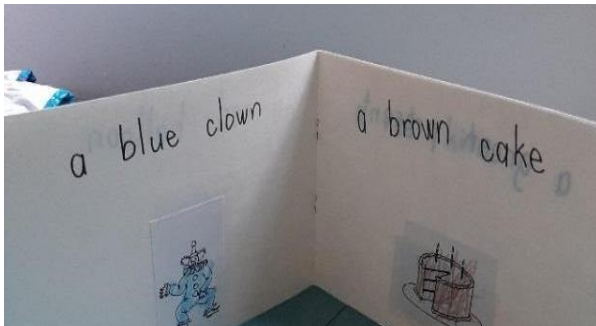


Figure 1: © Terri Griffin



Skill: Know the difference between a letter and a word.

Say: **Show me a word.** (a, blue, or clown)

Show me a letter. (Child should point to a letter somewhere in a word)

Count how many letters are in ____ (a particular word)

Skill: Read from left to right and read the left page before the right page.

Ask: **Where should you start reading?**

If your child doesn't point to the "a" you can put a green dot to the left of the text to help know where to start until it isn't needed anymore.



Skill: Return to left to read the next line of print.

After your child has shown you where to begin and which way to go on the first line of print, ask:

Where do you go after that? Your young reader should point to "chair" at beginning of next line.

Skill: Punctuation

Say: **Show me a period.**

Extend with other books:

Show me a question mark.

Show me an exclamation mark.

Extension Activity:

Practice high frequency or sight words:

High frequency, or sight words, are words that are encountered often and should be recognized at a glance, or on "sight". Help children discover these words while reading. After finding the words, encourage children to write the words on a white board, form the words with magnetic letters, spell them out loud, or add a sensory element by spreading pudding or shaving cream on cooking sheet and have them write words with their fingers!

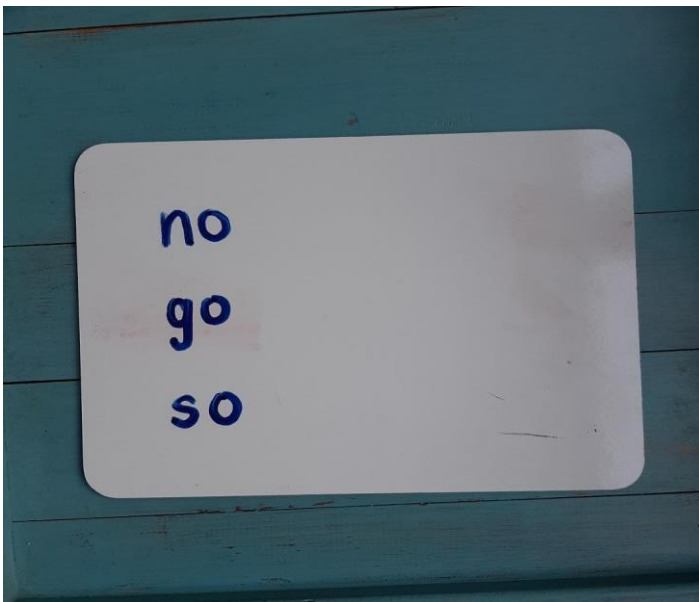


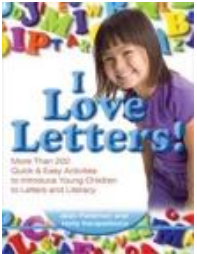
Figure 2: © Terri Griffin



Figure 3: © Terri Griffin

LRC-South Resources Available:

I Love Letters!: More Than 200 Quick & Easy Activities to Introduce Young Children to Letters and Literacy



Start children on a path toward a lifetime of reading with more than 200 activities, games, and songs that introduce them to the alphabet. It all begins with 26 letters. The wiggles and squiggles that turn into words, stories, poems, and great literature are the tools for future readers. Children will love learning their letters as they play the Name Game, sew their own letters, create Puzzle Pairs, and more! (LRC-South #37337)

Alphabet Letters: Foam Magnets



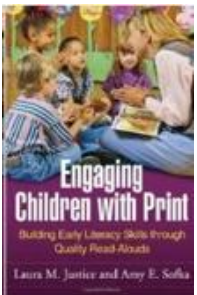
Chunky plastic letters stick to any magnetic surface! The 102 letters include 52 upper case and 68 lower case letters. (LRC-South #40544)

Playful Writing: 150 Open-Ended Explorations in Emergent Literacy



Children learn the skills needed for writing and reading on a continuum, over time and at different ages. Playful Writing integrates writing exploration across the entire early childhood curriculum. Using play to creatively connect verbal communication with written symbols and words, children will begin to interweave the experiences of writing and play and will ignite their own imaginations as they develop key literacy skills. (LRC-South #42573)

Engaging Children with Print: Building Early Literacy Skills through Quality Read-Alouds



This indispensable guide presents research-based techniques for using reading aloud to intentionally and systematically build children's knowledge of print. Simple yet powerful strategies are provided for teaching preschoolers about book and print organization, print meaning, letters, and words, all while sharing engaging, commercially available books. Appendices include a detailed book list and 60 reproducibles that feature activities and prompts keyed to each text. (LRC-South #37221)

High Frequency Word Tiles



Put 154 of the most frequent words at children's fingertips, and providing dozens of inviting, hands-on activities for helping children build a strong sight-word vocabulary and become more proficient readers. Large, brightly colored magnetic foam sight word tiles are easy-to-grasp and fun to use! (LRC-South #33612)