

Teach your child the letters in his name by first saying them, then pointing them out in print, and finally tracing the shape of each letter with him.

Your child will eventually remember the letters and begin to understand that letters make words.



Why this is important

The letters of your child's name provide a good beginning for learning letters. Your child will become aware of letters as symbols and recognize the sound and sight of the letters in his name. Learning to recognize the letters of his written name is part of early literacy.

What you do

- Make a point of saying and spelling your child's name together: *Joey, J-O-E-Y. Can you come here, please?* He will begin to associate the letters with his name.
- Try getting his attention using only the letters once he becomes familiar with them. The next step will be helping him learn to recognize the letters.
- Point out one letter at a time until he can recognize all the letters of his name. Cereal boxes, magazines, signboards, toys, and labels provide good sources of big, colorful letters.
- Trace the letter with your finger when you see it and encourage your child to do the same.
- Use his knowledge of circles and lines when you're acquainting him with the letter: *An O is a circle. An E is four straight lines. A J is curved at the bottom.*
- Encourage him to remember any associations he makes, such as a *J* resembles a candy cane.

Another idea

Use consistent language when he learns to write his letters. The same descriptions will help him remember the shape of each letter in his name. If his interest continues, help him recognize additional letters beyond those in his name.