

## Symbol to Sound Identification How to Help Your Child Learn the Sounds That Letters Make

Children need to learn the sounds that letters make. For example, they need to know that "m" sounds like "mmm" as in man. Teachers call learning the sounds that letters make Symbol to Sound Identification. The letter is a symbol. Letters just look like lines and circles until children learn that they stand for sounds. It helps if children already know the alphabet—the symbols—before they try to learn the sounds.

Knowing the sounds that letters make helps children learn to read by sounding out words.

There are many fun games that you can play with children to help them learn the sounds that letters make. Here are a few for you to try.

### Which Picture Starts With This Sound?

Cut apart the letters and pictures.  
Start with a few letters and pictures (Use 3 or 4).  
Put the letters into a box or bowl.  
Put the pictures that go with the letters on a table or floor. Let your child pick one letter out of the box and then find the picture that starts with that letter sound. For example "Kk" goes with the picture of the key. Put the letter and matching picture on one side of the table. Then have your child pick another letter.

If this is hard for your child, ask your child what sound the letter makes and remind him if he has forgotten. Then, encourage him to say the name of the item in the pictures and find the one that starts with the sound the letter makes.

As your child gets good at this game, use more letters and pictures when you play it. Finally, use all the letters and pictures, and see if your child can match the sounds all the letters make with the pictures that start with that sound.







## Watch Families Doing Activities

To watch families doing these activities, please go to: [www.schoolsuccesslibrary.com](http://www.schoolsuccesslibrary.com) and click on the "Parents" link at the top of the page. Next, click on "Literacy Resources". Then, click on the button that matches your child's age group. Scroll down the page and click on the video that goes with this tip sheet. Other tip sheets and videos are there as well.

## More Ideas

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you also can talk to your child's teacher. There may be other activities to help.



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