

## **Alphabet Arc Activities**

**Suggested Websites:** [http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/alphabet\\_matching](http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/alphabet_matching)

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/families>

Parents should print off the 3 pages of both the uppercase and lowercase arcs, fit them together, and cut/tape them to make one document.

### **Introduction to Alphabet**

- Sing the alphabet song and point to the letters on the arc. You could say, "This is the alphabet. The letters in the alphabet are letters we use to read and write. We use the letters in the alphabet to make words like your name. Can you point to the first letter of your name?"
- You also could say, "Now we'll read a book about the alphabet." Read an alphabet book such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and point to the letters as you read.

### **Letter Match**

#### **Uppercase Letters**

- Start with the first half of the alphabet (letters A-M) and have your child match the plastic letters to the uppercase letters on the arc.
- When your child is successful with this half, have him/her match the rest of the plastic letters (N-Z) to the uppercase letters on the arc.
- Next, have your child match all of the uppercase letters.
- Use a one-minute sand timer and have your child "race" to match as many letters as possible before the sand runs out.

#### **Lowercase Letters**

- Next, start with the first half of the alphabet (letters a-m) and have child match the plastic letters to the lowercase letters on the arc.
- When your child is successful with this half, have him/her match the rest of the plastic letters (n-z) to the lowercase letters on the arc.
- Next, have your child match all of the lowercase letters.
- Use a one-minute sand timer and have your child "race" to match as many letters as possible before the sand runs out.

### **I Spy a Letter**

- Choose a few plastic letters and place them on the table. Play a game and say, "I spy the letter A. Can you help me find it?" Help your child find the letter A and say "A." Then say, "Where does the 'A' go on the Alphabet arc? Yes, it's the first letter." Continue this procedure with other letters. Remember to do just a few letters at any one time.

### **Letter Sounds**

- Point to a letter on the arc and say the letter name and the sound it makes. For example, point to the uppercase M and say, "This is the letter M. It makes the sound /M/. McDonald's starts with an M and so does Mom. Can you think of something that starts with the letter M?" Encourage your child to think of something that begins with the letter M. Help your child hear the beginning sound of the words. Continue this procedure with other letters.
- Next, say, "I'm thinking of a letter that makes the sound /T/. Can you find the /T/?" Have your child place his/her finger on the letter on the arc and say the name of each letter and the sound it makes.

### **Questions About Letters**

After children become familiar with the letters, ask questions such as the ones below, in a game format.

- What is the first letter on the arc? What is the last letter? What letter is in the middle?
- What letter comes after M? What letter comes before F? Continue these types of questions with other letters.