

A B

a b c

How to Use an Alphabet Linking Chart

An alphabet linking chart consists of all 26 letters and a picture to go with the first (most common) sound for each of these letters. There are several ways this chart may be used and read to help with letter and sound recognition:

- Read each letter (both the capital/lowercase) by name. Example: A-a, B-b, C-c.
- Read every other letter by name. Example: A-a, C-c, E-e or B-b, D-d, F-f.
- Read both letter names and the picture name. Example: A-a apple, B-b bear.
- Read just the picture name. Example: apple, bear, cat.
- Read the letter sounds for each letter including both the capital/lowercase. Example: /A/- /a/, /B/- /b/, /C/- /c/.
- Read every other letter sound. Example: /A/- /a/, /C/- /c/, /E/- /e/.
- Read both letter sounds and the picture name. Example: /A/- /a/ apple.
- Read the letter name; then letter sound. Example: A- /a/ apple. B- /b/ bear.

When your child is writing and needs help on a word this chart is great resource. Here are some ways to use the chart to help with writing:

- doesn't know the beginning or ending sound: Chose 2-3 pictures from the chart (1 being the target sound). Touch each picture and say the picture name slowly. Say the word that your child is trying to decode. Ask your child for example, "Does cake start like bear or cat? Bear... cake. Cat... Cake." Have your child record the sound. If the sound is incorrect, I segment off the first sound of each word and ask the question again. /B/ ear... /C/ ake. /C/ at... /C/ ake. At this point even if the child is choosing the wrong letter, I tell him/her to write the letter for the sound he/she heard. I remind him/her to write the lowercase letter because most words are spelled with lowercase letters. I follow exactly the same procedures for recording ending sounds.

- knows the sound and letter name to write but doesn't know what the letter looks like: Have the child touch each letter and slowly sing the alphabet song until reaching the letter he/she wants to write.
- Knows the sound but doesn't know what letter makes that sound: Follow the same steps as if he/she didn't know the beginning or ending sound.

If your child needs help sounding out words more completely (segmenting words), the following suggestions may be of help:

- Clap the syllables of the word. Work on sounding out one syllable at a time.
- Give your child a large rubber band. Have him/her stretch the sounds out slowly as if stretching bubble gum. For example, cat. Your child will stretch the rubber band out in front of him/her slowly saying the sounds. /c/ /a/ /t/. Record one sound at a time. Your child will probably need to restretch the rubber band again for each sound.
- Tap out the sounds on your arm. Start at the top of the arm and work down. After tapping out each sound, sweep the hand from the top of the arm downward blending the sounds (saying the word).
- Punch out the sounds like a boxer.
- Sound Boxes. Draw three connected boxes on a sheet of paper. Get three pennies. Have your child push a penny into each box as he/she says the sounds to the word. Remember to only work with one syllable at a time.



Please Note:

- Your child should use some sort of pointer when working with the alphabet linking chart. Chopsticks, straws, and craft sticks are only some examples that make great pointer.
- When helping your child write, it is very hard not to correct the sounds they are recording. Please do not do this unless it is a sound that your child repeatedly records incorrectly. Our goal is to foster a love for writing and a willing to take risk. The more that your child feels safe to explore letters and sounds the more likely he/she is going to excel at writing.