

Letter Tracing

Dear Families,

One activity that is very helpful for learning letters is letter tracing. Students who cannot identify all of the letters should trace an alphabet book with a parent or interested adult every day at home. The sooner your child learns the names of the letters, the sooner he or she will get the most benefit from whole-group instruction in the classroom.

Directions (modified from *The Next Step in Guided Reading* by Jan Richardson)

Tracing Procedures:

The child uses his or her pointing finger to trace each upper- and lowercase letter in the ABC book, saying the name of the letter each time (make sure the child always uses his pointing finger only and uses only the hand with which he or she writes). Do not allow the child to trace with a pencil or marker. The tactile experience is essential for building a memory trace.

Parent Support:

The parent sits next to the child (not across the table) and observes the child trace each upper- and lowercase letter. The parent should only help if the child struggles with the name of the letter or letter formation.

- If the child does not know the name of the letter, the parent says the letter name. Then the child should repeat the name of the letter while tracing it in the book with his or her pointing finger.
- If the child does not know how to form a letter correctly, the parent lightly holds the child's hand and helps the child trace the letter. Always have the student trace the letter from top to bottom. Release the child's hand when the child no longer needs the parent's support with letter formation.

Enjoy letter learning this summer!

Warmly,

Mrs. Wehner

Elementary Support Teacher

