

Handwriting Charts, Symbol & Picture Cards, Small Movable Alphabet (age range 4-5+)

Handwriting Charts

Handwriting charts (pictured here) can be a reference for your child as they practice forming cursive symbols. We approach this first with one symbol at a time [on blank paper], repeated many times and then build from there. The writing practice eventually moves to lined paper as seen on the charts. Sand tray or chalkboard can also be used. If the child needs support, write the symbol first (lightly) and they can trace it.



To extend this activity, children can make a handwriting book that shows their progress.

Symbol and Picture Cards (photo inset – can be created by adult and/or child)

These cards support the child in independently connecting a symbol to the sound through a visual cue (image). They can be used as a separate material or in support of work with the moveable alphabet.

The child can make their own, the adult can support them in writing the symbol or illustration as needed, and the child can color them in.



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Small Moveable Alphabet

This small movable alphabet can be used to help children build words, phrases, stories, poems and messages they want to create.

For early writers, focus on the idea of building words with sounds, rather than on spelling. Try not to correct the child if they miss sounds or use the “wrong” letters to represent a sound, (like “ee” instead of “ea”). You can make note of these and work on any specific sounds a different day.

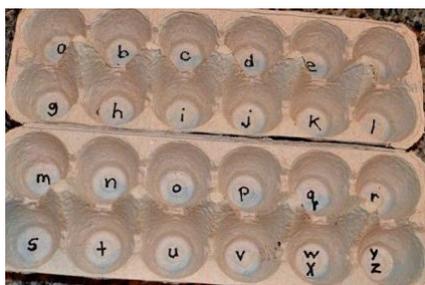
Older children can use the phonogram sounds. These are the unusual sounds in English that are two symbols put together, like “oo” in broom or “ie” in pie. You can show them the sound and explore the words they can think of with that sound.

Once their ideas are formed using the alphabet, children put the symbols away or they can be encouraged to write words, phrases, stories, poems, lists or labels on paper. Offer prompts or questions as needed. If necessary, ask “what is the first sound you hear?”, then “what sound is next?”, and so on. Focus on isolating each individual **sound**, accepting what the child hears – *phonetically* – not on spelling the words correctly.

If writing, you can show child how to put a finger in between words to separate them. The child can use colored pencils or other art supplies to decorate their writing as well.

The printable alphabet (cardstock or paper) can be cut out and put into a separated container.

Examples: egg cartons, a plastic compartmentalized craft container, or paper clipped by individual symbols and stored in a box or container.



A magnetic surface with magnetic letters (print or cursive) to build words or phrases.