

Video Transcript: Why Letter Sounds Matter

[Link to Video](#)

Transcript

Speaker: The ABC song is a great first step to learning letter names. But there is a lot more involved in actually teaching a child to read. Singing the ABC song is a fun way to help your child remember the names of letters, especially if you show them letter cards as they sing.

However, knowing the sounds of letters is one of the most important steps in your child's reading journey. This will help them when they are reading books and come across words they don't know. If your child knows the correct sounds for letters, they can break apart the sounds in an unknown word and then blend or put them back together.

After they say the new word, encourage them to go back and read the entire sentence. It's really important to teach your child the correct way to say each letter sound. When you say the sound for the letter T, say it like this, /t/, and not like this, /tuh/. Children learn how to read by using the correct sounds of each letter in a word.

For example, the word "cat" has three sounds, /k/, /a/, /t/. Your child will learn to read new words by saying the sound for each letter or group of letters, putting the sounds together to read the whole word. When extra sounds are added, it is confusing for a child to know how to use the sounds to make a word and how to blend or put the sounds together. For example, if you said /k/, /a/, /t/ to sound out the letters in "cat," the word you make is "ca-ha-tuh," not "cat."

Let's try another example, this time with the word "sat." Say the sound for each letter, /s/, /a/, /t/. Put the sounds together to read the whole word. If your child gets stuck on a word, help them sound it out by breaking the word up into individual sounds.

Blend the sounds together to say the whole word. Show your child how to break the word into smaller parts. Then put the sounds together to make the new word, remembering to look out for any stray sounds added to the end of consonants.

Remember, when you say letters like B, C, or D, don't add an "uh" sound at the end and say "buh," "kuh," and "duh". If your child makes a mistake, gently model the correct sound and ask them to repeat it back to you. Have /f/, /u/, /n/ fun. Have fun!