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A Parent's Guide to Alphabet Awareness with AAC

Notice...Explore...Connect

Children learn about letters long before they learn to read words. Alphabet awareness is simply helping your child notice, explore, and become familiar with the letters they see every day. There is no need to teach letters in order or expect your child to memorize them. The goal is to make letters meaningful, fun, and connected to real life.

Looking, touching, selecting, and exploring all count as learning.

1 Find Letters Everywhere



- Point out letters or signs wherever you go.
- Notice letters in your child's environment

"That's the letter G. Goldfish starts with "G."

2 Start with Meaningful Letters



- Notice letters in your child's name
- Focus on letters your child sees often

"Gavin starts with "G".

3 Explore Letters on the AAC Device



- Let your child explore letters on their AAC device
- Acknowledge letters they find, "You found the letter "M".
- Make a connection to the letter they found and the environment. "Mommy begins with "M".
- Celebrate every attempt! Don't make it a quiz by asking them to locate letters at first.

4 Make Connections to Real Life



- Talk about the letters your child notices.
  "You found a "b". Here is another "b".
- Keep it fun! Don't quiz your child. Connection over correction.

Tips

- Don't worry about teaching letters in alphabetical order. Letters in your child's name are a great place to start.
- Exploration of letters helps children learn. If they select random letters or repeat letters, then they are learning!

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