

## My ABCs Have Sounds: Ages 5-Kindergarten

Teaching your child the sounds of the letters will help him:

- Sound out words in books to begin learning to read
- Spell words in their writing



**K-A-T**

### Ideas to try with your child:

Practice sounding out words (model this first and then have your child join in)

- In **Reading**:
  - “What is the first letter in that word? It’s a ‘t’! What sound does ‘t’ make? /t/! Good. What is the next letter? ‘O’! That says /o/. And the last letter is ‘p’. What sound does ‘p’ make? /p/! Great! Let’s put it all together... t-o-p, top! Nice work! You sounded it out!”
- In **Writing**:
  - “I want to write the word ‘cat.’ What is the first sound we hear in that word? /k/ right. What letter makes that sound? ‘K’ makes that sound, good let’s write it down. What is the next sound? /a/. A says /a/. What is the last sound? /t/. What letter says /t/? ‘T’ right! Look we wrote the word ‘K-A-T’! Awesome!”
  - Don’t worry if the words aren’t spelled correctly! They will learn as they practice!

### If your child is struggling:

- Come up with little chants to remember the sounds
  - S says /s/, snake on the stairs, /s//s//s/.
- Add hand motions to match the chants! Be creative!
  - Make your arm slither like a snake.

### Going further:

- Sort objects around the house based on the first sound.
- Give your child a longer word (like ‘picture’ or ‘grass’) and have them tell you how many sounds they hear in the longer words.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children of Kindergarten age** that parents can help improve at home.