

Teaching Phonics the Montessori Way

Before any ABC's are taught, each letter is presented according to its phonetic sound. The names of the letters ("this letter is A; that letter is B") are introduced much later, as naming them or merely reciting the alphabet does not help a child to read.

We are providing a list of phonetic sounds in case the opportunity rises for you to reinforce a child's understanding of the sound. For example, he or she may be looking at a book and point to a letter with the question, "what does this letter say?" Offer the sound as indicated below.

On all letters, use a short, quick pronunciation without prolonging the sound, except for m, n, r, and z. By saying the letter as it sounds at the end of the word, it is easier to isolate that sound so no other sound is joined with it. For example, to make the "d" sound alone, we say rod. The sound is short rather than prolonged (unless otherwise indicated) or linked with a vowel, which would be two sounds together.

a	short as in <u>ap</u> ple	n	"nnn" (prolong) ma <u>n</u>
b	as in ru <u>b</u>	o	"ah" as in <u>o</u> ctopus
c	voiceless (breath only) as in si <u>ck</u>	p	voiceless as in si <u>p</u>
d	as in re <u>d</u> , ro <u>d</u>	q	as in <u>q</u> uick
e	short as in <u>E</u> skimo	r	"rrr" (prolong as in fa <u>th</u> er)
f	voiceless as in roo <u>f</u>	s	hissing and voiceless as in ki <u>ss</u>
g	as in hu <u>g</u>	t	short, voiceless as in re <u>st</u>
h	voiceless as in <u>h</u> elicopter	u	short as in <u>u</u> mbrella
i	short as in <u>i</u> gloo	v	as in lo <u>v</u> e
j	as in sm <u>ud</u> ge	w	as in <u>w</u> atch
k	voiceless as in dar <u>k</u>	x	"ks" as at the end of bo <u>x</u>
l	sound at the end of fu <u>ll</u>	y	as in <u>y</u> ou
m	"mmm" (prolong) hu <u>m</u>	z	"zzz" (prolong as at the end of bu <u>zz</u>)
ai	as in <u>pai</u> nt	oy	as in <u>to</u> y
ee	as in <u>fee</u> l	er	as in ha <u>mm</u> er
ie	as in <u>pie</u>	ar	as in <u>far</u> m
oa	as in <u>foa</u> m	or	as in <u>co</u> rn
oo	as in <u>boo</u> k	th	as in <u>mat</u> h
ue	as in <u>glue</u> or <u>musi</u> c	sh	as in <u>wi</u> sh
ou	as in <u>ou</u> t	ch	as in <u>chur</u> ch