

## Activities for Families to Support Alphabet Knowledge

- Children enjoy playing with small items they can hold and move by themselves, like magnetic letters. **Playing with letters** will familiarize your child with the different attributes of letters (lines, half circles, curves, etc). Engage in unstructured play to help familiarize your child with letters.
- Children are usually highly interested in learning the letters of their names. **Use magnetic letters** and provide written models and encourage your child to write his name. It is OK if all capital letters are used when first learning to write. Your child will probably find it easier to write capital letters than lower case. Positively reinforce all attempts at writing. Imperfection and reversals are normal and to be expected.
- **Make a “writing box” together.** You can use a shoebox, Tupperware, or any container with a lid. Fill it with paper, pens, markers, crayons, paper, envelopes, recycled greeting cards, stickers, etc. Junk mail often has paper and envelopes that can be reused for children’s amusement. An occasional “surprise item” in the writing box will keep your child interested in learning.
- **Read books** that feature alphabet knowledge. You can spend considerable time on each page, identifying letters, talking about pictures, thinking about all the words they know that start with that letter, etc.
- Spend time outside with **sidewalk chalk**. Children love drawing, scribbling, and writing letters for fun and learning.