**Script for Letter Knowledge**

**Slide 1:***This section is on letter knowledge - one of the key early literacy components that helps children learn to read, to decode words.*

**Slide 2:**Photos:   
alphabet by Prawny (https://pixabay.com/en/users/Prawny-162579/ ) on Pixabay: https://pixabay.com/en/alphabet-text-type-typography-1207048/ A, B & C by pramit\_marattha

(https://pixabay.com/en/users/pramit\_marattha-3815284/ ) on Pixabay: https://pixabay.com/en/alfabet-3d-albhabet-letters-color-1896886/

*Read bullets*

**Slide 3:**Photo: Hungry for Knowledge by [Betty Nudler](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bet27/) on [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bet27/15069880421/in/photolist-oXF5qv-7dtZjn-8wm7yU-74o7AN-g9331V-9UrEXT-dtSUky-aXWDzt-g2aLmN-dtMm8H-qjErhG-aPXuKH-g92ziY-88KNag-9EiiFj-6oGX43-8tVwcr-bXsxLG-fYuUUi-g934At-89hsXH-g2atH6-5yReur-9EifLN-g2aYcD-4gY2Mj-7UWeAU-84J1o3-7essWx-6MnDoV-6aXVdY-g933QF-6g3qkt-9HadJw-nEzN44-8iKS3w-8Bxbs9-T21D7U-2mvxVJ-pTsJd7-pxaxJ3-nwv252-n1HZSC-g2aYPv-h5Z7i-aizbCm-jP3Ykk-a6uxGP-4eALmV-g2avXY) [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/) - https://www.flickr.com/photos/bet27/15069880421/

*Read slide*

**Slide 4:***Here is an overview of the development of letter knowledge, from discerning shapes to connecting letters to their sounds*

**Slide 5:**Images:Beach ball by OpenClipart-Vectors (https://pixabay.com/en/users/OpenClipart-Vectors-30363/ ) on pixabay: https://pixabay.com/en/beach-ball-ball-inflatable-beach-575425/

Wooden toys by Alexas\_Fotos (https://pixabay.com/en/users/Alexas\_Fotos-686414/ ) on Pixabay: https://pixabay.com/en/wooden-toys-building-blocks-children-674888/

*Researchers have found that children learn to recognize letters by their shapes, so the concept of shapes is a part of letter knowledge.*

*Because young children learn using all their senses including manipulating things, they learn about shapes through playing with things like balls and blocks.*

*Here you can see the relationship between recognizing shapes, such as a sphere, which becomes a circle when it is two-dimensional, and the letters:*

*b is a circle with a line coming out of it; C is a circle with a hole in it.*

*And you can see how the triangular block relates to some letters.*

**Slide 6:***Another concept for letter knowledge is noticing visual similarities and differences.*

*Children will need to learn not only what is alike and different, but also what are significant differences.*

*The colors of the N are different, but that does not make a difference in the letter.*

*The orientation of the letter, the N and Z, and the height of a line does make a difference for the lower case n and h.*

**Slide 7:**Photos:   
Name Craft -Poppy by [Cockburn Libraries](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cockburnlibraries/) on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cockburnlibraries/32299257560/> [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/)

Chocolate chip cookie by [StevenGiacomelli](https://pixabay.com/en/users/StevenGiacomelli-2218761/) on Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/en/cookie-chocolate-chip-cookie-snack-1264231/>

*Letters are abstract. Children can relate to letters more easily when they are connected to something that has meaning to them, such as their name or something they like.*

**Slide 8:***Let’s look at how we can share books to intentionally support letter knowledge.*

**Slide 9:**  
*Baby Faces* by Margaret Miller, Little Simon, 2009.

*What’s in My Toybox?* by Cheryl Christian, Star Bright Books, 2009. illustrated by Annie Beth Ericson

*Here are examples of books that support letter knowledge for babies and toddlers, starting with the concepts of shapes and visual similarities and differences.*

*Because babies focus on faces, describing the differences in the faces with different emotions is one opportunity to help them focus on visual similarities and differences.*

**Slide 10:***Parents are more likely to talk about letters when they read an alphabet book,but you can use any book!*

*What shape are the wheels? Circles!*

*Point out letter O in Choo Choo*

**Slide 11:***Goodnight Max*by Rosemary Wells, Viking Juvenile, 2000.

*You can use books with clear pictures. What shapes can you see? In the quilt, Max’s nose, the crescent moon*

**Slide 12:***Preschoolers can do more with the letters themselves, relating some letters to their sounds.*

*Alphabet books can be read from cover to cover, or a child may choose a page of interest and then talk about that letter.*

**Slide 13:***Now that we have looked at supporting letter knowledge through books, let’s look at how we can support it through the other practices.*

**Slide 14:**Photo: Fruit market by [PublicDomainPictures](https://pixabay.com/en/users/PublicDomainPictures-14/) on Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/en/fruit-orange-lemon-colorful-yellow-19182/>

*We can share with parents that they can talk about shapes, about how things look alike and different, and letters wherever they are!*

**Slide 15:**\*\*\*Interactivity: \*\*\* Adapt as needed.

Ask learners to share their ideas in CHAT about songs that they might use for letter knowledge

**Slide 16:***Fine motor development and gross motor development both are precursors to learning to write.*

*Whenever you do fingerplays, movement activities, or craft activities, you are supporting later writing as they develop muscles and gain a sense of themselves in space.*

**Slide 17:***Fine motor development and gross motor development both are precursors to learning to write.*

*Whenever you do fingerplays, movement activities, or craft activities, you are supporting later writing.*

**Slide 18:**(From *More than Letters* by Sally Moomaw and Brenda Hieronymous)

*Here you can see the development of writing from scribbles to writing words.*

*It is important to encourage parents to support those scribbles because they lead to writing.*

**Slide 19:***Playing with letters, such as magnet letters, is one obvious connection to letter knowledge.*

*However, so is block play. Children are learning shapes which is how they recognize letters. They are also learning about orientation of the pieces, and visual similarities and differences.*

*Puzzle play is also a good way to support letter knowledge, as they turn pieces to get the correct orientation to fit the piece.*

**Slide 20:***Here we are again with the Early Literacy Planning Tool and the Worksheet. I bet you are seeing a pattern here!*

*Again, these strategies are some examples*

*Storytime providers can support the GOALS in numerous ways*

**Slide 21:***Closing acknowledgement slide*