About Recognizing Alphabet Letters  Print awareness typically begins long before children enter school. Through books, signs, and other printed materials, children learn that print conveys meaning. They may learn that words are separated by spaces and that letters spell words. Children often produce purposeful scribbles with letter-like features, thus demonstrating a preliminary understanding of the role of alphabet letters in written communication. This early knowledge forms a base upon which children can build as they learn to recognize and identify specific alphabet letters.

By the time they enter school, most children can make a distinction between drawing and writing. Many children can write their names and identify at least some of the alphabet letters.

Alphabet recognition is a vital step in building a foundation for reading and a reliable predictor of future reading success. Alphabet recognition involves more than reciting the alphabet or singing the alphabet song; it is the ability to read the letters of the alphabet when the letters are presented in random order.

The Reading Readiness software activities and the activities in this packet can be used to build alphabet recognition skills. In these materials, the letters are not presented in alphabetical order, but all letters (both lowercase and uppercase) are covered:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aa</th>
<th>Bb</th>
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<td>Kk</td>
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Packet 2 Objective: Identify and match alphabet letters, lowercase and uppercase.
Class Activity 1: Letter Lotto

**Materials:** Letter Set 1 (1 copy plus enough extra copies to have 4 cards per child, cards cut apart), plastic chips (4 per child)

**Outcome:** Identify uppercase letters A, K, M, N, V, W, X, and Z.

1. Review the letters in Letter Set 1 by showing each card and discussing the letter with the class.
   - Does anyone know the name of this letter?
   - How might you describe this letter?

2. Give each child four plastic chips and four letter cards. (Different children will have different letter combinations.) Direct children to place their four cards face-up in a row.

3. To play Letter Lotto, show a card from Letter Set 1 and ask a volunteer to name the letter. Children who have the letter should cover it with a chip. Continue in this manner until one or more children have covered all four letters.

4. Let children trade cards before playing again. If you wish, play on another day with cards from Letter Set 2 or 3.

Class Activity 2: Tablecloth Letters

**Materials:** Letter Set 2 (1 copy, cards cut apart), disposable tablecloth, permanent markers (for teacher use)

**Outcome:** Match uppercase letters B, C, D, G, O, P, Q, R, and S to their lowercase versions.

1. Show the letter cards, one card at a time, and discuss each letter. As you proceed, write the lowercase letters in scattered positions on a disposable tablecloth.
   - What is the name of this uppercase letter?
   - How would you describe this letter?
   - Does the lowercase letter look the same, but smaller?
   - If not, how is it different?

2. Have a volunteer select a letter card, name the uppercase letter, and place it on the corresponding lowercase letter written on the tablecloth. Continue with other volunteers until all the cards are placed.

3. Leave the tablecloth out and stack the cards on the table. Encourage children to practice matching the uppercase and lowercase letters during free time throughout the week. If you wish, gradually add more letter cards from Letter Sets 1 and 3.
Class Activity 3: Letter Search

**Materials:** Letter Set 3 (enough copies to allow 1 card per child, cards cut apart)

**Outcome:** Identify uppercase letters E, F, H, I, J, L, T, U, and Y

1. Review the letters in Letter Set 3 by showing each card and discussing the letter with the class.
   - Who knows the name of this letter?
   - Is it made with straight lines, curved lines, or both?
   - Does the shape of this letter remind you of an object?
   - What object?

2. Have children scatter themselves around the room. Then give each child a letter card, making sure you distribute at least two of each letter.

3. Let children circulate around the room until each child finds at least one other child with an identical letter. Have children show their letters to the class and say the letter names.

4. If you wish, redistribute the cards for another round. Consider including some cards from Letter Sets 1 and 2.
Letter Set 1
Class Activity 1: Letter Lotto

A
K
M
N
V
W
X
Z
Letter Set 2
Class Activity 2: Tablecloth Letters

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Letter Set 3
Class Activity 3: Letter Search

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