Enhancing Alphabet Knowledge

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| Letter Name  (2 min) | 1. *This is the letter \_\_\_\_. This is the uppercase letter \_\_\_\_. This is the lowercase letter \_\_\_\_.* (Show and/or write the letter, explaining the form.)  2. *Let’s practice naming this letter. What is this letter?* \_\_\_\_\_.  (Point to uppercase and lowercase letters in different order at least 3 times asking students to identify the letter name). |
| Letter Sound  (2 min) | 3. *The letter \_\_\_\_ represents the sound /\_\_\_/. When I say the sound / / I place my tongue & mouth like this \_\_\_\_.* (Provide explanations about how letter sound feels in mouth)  4. *Let’s practice saying the sound of this letter. The letter \_\_\_\_ represents the \_\_\_\_ sound. Say the \_\_\_\_ sound with me \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.*  (Point to uppercase and lowercase letters in different order at least 3 times asking students to identify the letter sound).  Hint: For vowels, teach students the short vowel sound and explain that when reading words the vowel letter represents its name or its sound. |
| Recognize in Text (3 min) | 5. *Now, let’s see if we can find the letter \_\_\_\_\_*  (Students locate the uppercase and lowercase letter in text and state the letter name and sound each time the letter is located)  Ideas for recognizing letters:  • Identify the letter in charts of classmates’ names or word walls  • Use a crayon to circle the letter in newspapers or magazines  • Place highlighter tape over the letter in easy-to-read children’s books |
| Writing (5 min) | 7. *Let’s practice writing the letter \_\_\_ together.*  Model correct form using verbal directions. Students can use paper/pencil, whiteboards, chalk, wiki sticks, pipe cleaners, or crayons.  Note: Tasks such as using a rubber stamp and ink to stamp the letter or gluing items to an outline of the letter (e.g. gluing beans on the letter b) is not producing the letter form as the form has already been produced and students are not required to think about how to create the form. |

Template adapted from Jones, Cindy D.; Clark, Sarah K.; and Reutzel, D. Ray, "Enhancing alphabet knowledge instruction: Research implications and practical strategies for early childhood educators" (2012). TEaL Faculty Publications. Paper 404. http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/teal\_facpub/404