

To the Teacher

This book has been written to help children recognise and write the letters of the English alphabet. Supported by engaging pictures, all activities are intended to motivate them in the process of learning.

Each page presents the upper and lower case of one letter, and its corresponding word, at a time. Pupils practise forming and writing the letter with the help of clear guidelines. Following this handwriting practice is a letter recognition activity where children will have fun circling, matching and colouring letters and words. Lastly, pupils are invited to write the letters they have learnt in a whole word context. Activities include completing words with the help of letter, word and picture prompts, writing the first letter of a word next to its picture and doing very simple crosswords and wordsearches. Every third page ends with an *I can write ...* activity where pupils can trace the letters they have practised over the last three pages.

Within this book there are also three review pages, entitled *My Alphabet*. These pages contain exciting activities and puzzles to enable children to recycle and consolidate what they have learnt. At the end of the book there is a two-page picture dictionary for pupils to write the alphabet words and colour the pictures. This is followed by an intriguing alphabet puzzle.

We hope you and your pupils have fun learning and practising all the different letters and words of the English alphabet with **Monty's Alphabet Book!**

Teaching tips

- Introduce each letter to the pupils by first writing the letter on the board or holding up an alphabet flashcard. Point to the letter and say the sound. Then tell pupils to open their alphabet books and point to and finger trace both cases of the letter at the top of the page while saying its name. Pupils next point to the lower case letter and then to the picture, saying the sound of the letter followed by the picture word, *e.g. a – apple*.
- Pupils may enjoy forming new letters with plasticine before they practice writing them.
- Encourage pupils to say letters and words out loud while they are circling, matching or colouring them in their books.
- Give pupils the opportunity to recycle and practise the pronunciation of the letters and words with the alphabet flashcards. This can be done by playing 'Guess the letter' or 'Guess the word' games which involve holding a card behind your back and inviting pupils to guess which one it is.
- Pupils can play the game 'What's the letter?' with each other by writing a letter in the air or on their partner's back with their index finger and asking their partner to guess.
- If you feel your pupils need further practice writing letters and words, you can ask them to make their own alphabet books which they can illustrate with pictures and words.

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