

Pre-K Teaching Suggestions for Parents, Caregivers, and Preschool Teachers

A New Take on ABCs - S is for Smiling Sunrise: An Alphabet Book of Goodness, Beauty, and Wonder

*For sparking curiosity and imagination, developing vocabulary and comprehension,
and for supporting character development*

1. Download the free Smiling Sunrise alphabet song, add it to your music collection and mp3 player, or burn it on a CD, and start playing the song when convenient, for example, when driving your child around.

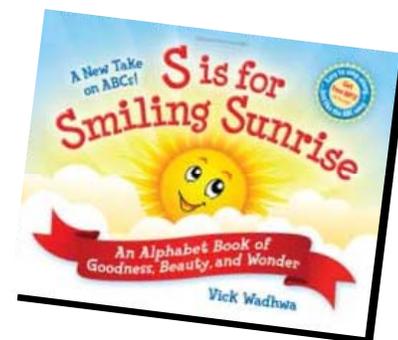
2. Start teaching your child the headline words (i.e., A for Artwork, B for Butterflies, and so on). As you read the headline words, point to related images within the illustrations: for example, "Someone is doing artwork!" or "Look, butterflies! How many can you count?" Encourage your child to talk about each page.

3. When your child is comfortable with the headline words and the illustrations, start reading or singing the rhymes out loud. New words will come up within the rhymes, and your child may ask you about words she or he does not understand. Each time it happens, seize the teaching opportunity! If your child does not ask questions, that is OK too. Over time, their understanding of new words will grow as they sing or listen to the rhymes, and as they figure out the context.

4. As your child becomes comfortable with the rhymes, he or she will start completing sentences that you start, and sometimes entire rhymes! Gently correct any missed or mispronounced words by repeating the sentence or rhyme in the correct manner.

5. Engage your child further by encouraging them to sing the rhymes, or by singing to them as you go through the book together. You may be surprised at how quickly your child starts singing the rhymes too! Singing enhances the memorization process and increases familiarity. Over time, your child is likely to memorize the rhymes and sing them in tune, even without the book.

6. Use rhymes from the book as your child does related activities (i.e., playing with a kaleidoscope, going to the park), and when teaching opportunities arise. For example, if your child doesn't want to get out of bed in the morning, try singing cheerfully, "S is for Smiling Sunrise, warming up the day; out of bed, get up quick, get ready and let's play!" Feel free to try it on yourself too, if you're dragging yourself out of bed! :)



The above suggestions are oriented towards toddlers and preschoolers. For additional and more detailed teaching tips, particularly for older children, please review the free Teachers/K-3 guide, available from www.wordsbright.com.

Do you have additional tips, suggestions, or observations based on your experience? Your feedback is always welcome at www.wordsbright.com.

Thank you!