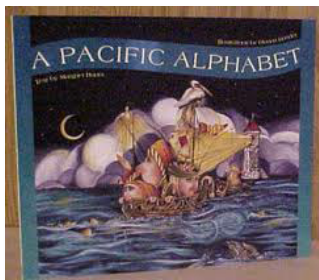# Fun with letters

Let's play and talk together

❖ Set up the computer so that you can type BIG capital letters (size 48 font or larger) on a blank word processing page.

❖ Show your child how the letters appear on the screen as you press the keys.

❖ Encourage your child to experiment with the keyboard to see what different letters, numbers and other symbols appear on the screen.

❖ After a while, help your child find letters by name. Talk about the letters with your child. Notice their shapes and point out how some letters look almost the same.

❖ Make familiar words such as names of friends or family members. If your child seems ready, you may also write a sentence or a longer message together.

❖ Print the page if you can so your child can see how a computer is used to create print on paper.

A good read-together book

A Pacific Alphabet by Margriet Ruurs

You will need access to a computer, a printer and some blank paper.

This activity is good for learning to recognize and name letters and for showing how a computer can be used to make print.

Hints for success

❖ Use fonts such as **Futura**, Chalkboard or Monaco that are similar to printing by hand.

❖ Provide plenty of time for your child to experiment before you point out specific letters or words.

❖ Begin with capital letters because they are easier for young children to remember. Add lower case letters once your child is familiar with the capital letters.

Look what happens when we change the font. Do you want to try it?

Can you find a "K" for the beginning of your name?

Ways to say it

More ideas for Fun with letters

Try this way

❖ Show your child how to use the "Fonts" menu and other features of the word processing program. For example, you might change letter sizes, styles or colours, or make the text look different with outlining or highlighting.

❖ Encourage your child to suggest a message to type on the computer. Print the words on a piece of paper, and show your child how to type the message by finding the same letters on the keyboard. For this activity, you will need to explain how to make spaces between words using the space bar.

Computer literacy

Show your child how to send messages to family members in other places. Write a message together and send it using email. When you get a reply, read it together and write a response to send.

Book link

The Alphabet Tree by Leo Lionni