

## BEYOND THE BOOK

Alphabet Anatomy is packed with learning opportunities to enhance your child's reading and writing journey. So don't just read the book! Talk to your child about the letter sounds and shapes, and encourage your child to practice writing the letters and to memorize the rhyming verses for easy recall of each letter's unique characteristics. When your child can recognize and recall each letter, he/she will be on the way to becoming a fluent and proficient reader and writer.

Most of all, have fun with your child! Don't make learning a chore. Alphabet Anatomy's letters are full of surprises to engage your child so he/she will want to learn more. Encourage your child to use his/her imagination when learning about each letter's life. Below are just a few ideas to facilitate more discussion about Letters A through E. You get the idea! Also remember to have your child think of additional words that begin with the same sound of each letter. Finally, expose your child to a rich vocabulary in your discussions. Your child is more than capable of learning and understanding "big" words!

1. Letter A thinks apples are absolutely the most appetizing fruit. What is your child's favorite fruit, why is it healthy, and what kind of recipes can you make with it?

2. Letter B loves burgers. His favorite is the beefy broiled bacon burger sandwiched between a brown-bread and broccoli biscuit. What is your child's favorite burger and what is the best thing about a barbeque?

3. Letter C provides an opportunity to talk to your child about compassion. Compassion is defined as "a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for someone struck by misfortune, accompanied by a desire to alleviate the suffering; mercy." Letter C shows compassion for all the cats that come her way. She even creates a cozy corduroy comforter for each of them. How can your child show compassion? Think every-day little things...many ideas should come to mind.

4. Letter E endeavors to always lend her extra hand to help others and enjoys doing so. What are some ways that your child can lend a helping hand to others?