Learn to Read with Rocket

How Rocket Learned to Read • by Tad Hills

wag
nap
wind
dig
mud
read
Introducing Rocket and the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet”!

Rocket is an emergent reader who knows what books are but cannot decipher them by himself. He 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9 to be read, like all young soon-to-be readers do! His friend, the talking bird, starts by reading aloud to him and showing him how much fun stories are. Rocket can’t get enough of them. But the bird also knows that reading starts with the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet,” so she shows Rocket not only the shapes of the letters but also the sounds they represent. Soon Rocket is able to spell words he knows well, like M-Y-U and W-A-G. Once he is able to do that, there’s no stopping Rocket and his reading!

ALPHABET MEMORY GAME
Divide the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children. Begin by choosing 9 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and any more than that and children might be overwhelmed. Because the quantity of letters in the class progresses. Rocket, when he is ready, can choose 8 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster. (Any more than that and children might be overwhelmed. Children are to watch as the cards are being turned over so they can remember where each letter is when their turn comes. Once all the cards in the stack have been matched, the game is over. The child with the most pairs wins. This game reinforces letter recognition.

ALPHABET SEQUENCING
Divide the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children. Begin by choosing 8 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and any more than that and children might be overwhelmed. Because the quantity of letters in the class progresses. Rocket, when he is ready, can choose 8 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster. (Any more than that and children might be overwhelmed. Children are to watch as the cards are being turned over so they can remember where each letter is when their turn comes. Once all the cards in the stack have been matched, the game is over. The child with the most pairs wins. This game reinforces letter recognition.

ALPHABET DRAW AND LABEL
Enlarge and photocopy the full set of Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and cut them into individual cards. Depending on where it belongs in the alphabet. It is the next child’s turn. Remind the children to watch as the cards are being turned over so they can remember where each letter is when their turn comes. Once all the cards in the stack have been matched, the game is over. The child with the most pairs wins. This game reinforces letter recognition.

BEGINNING SOUND SORT
Give a set of the word image cards on this poster, photocopied and cut out, to each child. The children then write the letters—t, a, p, c, n, o, s, r, b, h, d, g, j, v, m, y, w, z, p, t, n, c, a, b—on index cards. Then have the children write that letter in their notebooks and show a picture of an object that begins with that letter. Ask them to try to spell it as well as they can. This activity is meant to enhance their sense of where a word begins and ends.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE
Children should practice writing every day. To start this activity, read aloud from the chosen images. They will then write these new words and draw corresponding pictures. This activity lets children practice spelling sounds with physical letters.

READ, READ, READ
Here are other great read-alouds to share with your class.

Name:

READING IS FUN!
What do you think Rocket liked about reading?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT READING?
Write it and draw it!

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALPHABET!
Photocopy and enlarge the alphabet cards for these activities and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.

Name:
ALPHABET DRAW AND LABEL

Draw and photocopy the full set of Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and cut them into individual cards. Depending on your class’s ability, you can choose to remove the vowels or challenging letters such as x and z. With cards arranged in order, the child in charge of the activity reads aloud the chosen image. Then have the children write that letter in their notebooks and draw a picture of an object that begins with that letter. Ask them to try to spell it as well as they can. This activity is meant to bolster their sense of where a word begins and ends.

BEGINNING SOUND SORT

Given a set of word name cards on this poster (photocopied and cut out), each child selects the word that begins with the sound for which the cards are arranged. This activity can be extended by asking the children to come up with other words starting with the same sounds as the chosen images. They will then write these new words and draw corresponding pictures. This activity lets children practice matching sounds with printed letters.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Children should practice writing every day. To start this activity, read aloud from the chosen stories aloud to them. Then ask and discuss their responses. This activity helps children practice matching sounds with printed letters.

READ, READ, READ

Here are other great read-alouds to share with your class.

**Duck & Goose**
Illustrated by George Booth

**Duck, Duck, Goose**
by Tad Hills

**Never Tease a Weasel**
by Jean Conder Soule

**The Donut Chef**
by Bob Staake

**IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALPHABET!**
Photocopy and enlarge the alphabet cards for these activities and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.
Introducing Rocket and the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet”!

Rocket is an emergent reader who knows what books are but cannot decipher them by himself. He is 0-3-6-9 to be read in, like all young novice–to-be readers do! His friend, the little yellow bird, starts by reading aloud to him and showing him how much fun stories are. Rocket can’t get enough of them. But the bird also knows that reading starts with the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet,” so she shows Rocket not only the shapes of the letters but also the sounds they represent. Soon Rocket is able to spell words that he knows well, like B-C-D and W-A-G. Once he is able to do that, there’s no stopping Rocket and his reading!

ALPHABET MEMORY GAME
Divide the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children. Begin by choosing 9 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster (any more than that and children might be overwhelmed). Because the quantity of letters in the class progresses, eliminate cards from the stack if necessary. Have the groups sit on the floor or at tables. For each group, spread one set of cards facedown on the floor or in table; place the other shuffled set in a stack nearby. Children take turns laying it on the floor or table. The second child selects the next card and places it either before the previous card or after it, depending on whether the sounds are the same or different. If they succeed, they place the matching pair in the other shuffled set in a stack nearby. Children take turns in the group until all the cards are in order. At first, children should have a group of 3 to 4 children. The first child turns a card over and places it in the floor or table. The second child either moves a card or places it in front of the previous card as often as the sounds are the same. This activity can be continued by adding the children to come up with all other words starting with the same sounds or the chosen image.As they try to spell the words, they can use the cut out, to each child. The children then write these new words and draw corresponding pictures. This activity lets children practice spelling sounds with print in words that they know well, like to and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.

BEGINNING SOUND SORT
Give a set of the word image cards on this poster and cut them into individual cards. Depending on your class’s ability, you can choose to remove the words or challenging letters such as q and x. With cards handed out in pairs, you can have children work in groups to come up with other words starting with the same sounds as the chosen image. They then have the children write that letter in their notebooks and show a picture of an object that begins with that letter. Ask them to try to spell it as well as they can. This activity is meant to familiarize them with some of the sounds and words they know.

PREREADING PRACTICE
Read aloud from How Rocket Learned to Read. Discuss with the class: What do you think Rocket liked about reading? What do you think Rocket liked about reading? What did he enjoy about it? What else did he enjoy about reading? What words or phrases did Rocket read? What do you thinkRocket liked about reading?

READER REPRODUCE
Give a set of the word image cards on this poster, photocopied and cut out, to each child. The children then write the words and draw corresponding pictures. This activity lets children practice spelling sounds with print in words that they know well, like to and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT READING?
Write it and draw it!

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALPHABET!
Photocopy and enlarge the alphabet cards for these activities and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.
Introducing Rocket and the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet”!

Rocket is an emergent reader who knows what books are but cannot decipher them by himself. He is 4–5 and so to be read to, like all young soon-to-be readers do! His friend, the bird, already reads, so he reads aloud to him and sharing him how much fun stories are. Rocket can’t get enough of them, but the bird also knows that reading starts with the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet,” so he shows Rocket not only the shapes of the letters but also the sounds they represent. Soon Rocket is able to spell words he knows well, like B-U-D and W-E-G. Once he is able to do that, there’s no stopping Rocket and his reading!

ALPHABET MEMORY GAME
Divide the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children. Begin by choosing 9 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster (any more than that and children might be overwhelmed because the quantity of letters in the class progresses). Balance, group, and have each group sit on the floor or at tables. For each group, spread one set of cards facedown on the floor or tables, place the other shuffled set in a stack nearby. Children take turns placing facedown and the card in hand is placed at the bottom of the stack. It is the next child’s turn. Remind the children to try to match the pair by turning over a card from the set spread out on the floor or at tables. If they succeed, they place the matching pair in the stack. Have the groups sit on the floor or at tables. For each group, place an alphabet strip available to support them as they work as best they can—in their notebooks, then draw what that word looks like. Rocket is an emergent reader who knows what books are but cannot decipher them by himself. He

ALPHABET SEQUENCING
Enlarge and photocopy the full set of Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and cut them into individual cards. Depending on your class’s ability, you can choose to use the cards or challenge children to look up a word. With cards, children will use the Rocket alphabet poster to find and cut out the letters that make up the word. Then have the children write that letter in their notebooks and draw a picture of an object that begins with that letter. Ask them to try to spell it as well as they can. This activity is meant to bolster their sense of where a word begins and ends.

BEGINNING SOUND SORT
Give each student a set of letter cards on this poster (photocopy and cut out) and words cards. The children then write the letter cards in order from A to Z. Then ask the children to sort the words cards based on where the letter belongs. Once all the cards in the stack have been matched, the game is over. The child with the most pairs wins. This game reinforces letter recognition.

READ, READ, READ
Here are other great read-alouds to share with your class.

NAME: _______________________

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT READING?
Write it and draw it!

What do you think Rocket liked about reading?

Reading is fun!

Practice, practice, practice
Children should practice writing every day. To start this activity, read aloud from the storybook as much as possible. Then ask and discuss the class. What do you think Rocket liked about reading? What does Rocket like about reading? The children can use the reproducible on this poster to write and draw their responses.

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALPHABET!

Photocopy and enlarge the alphabet cards for these activities and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.

Name: _______________________

What do you think Rocket liked about reading?

Reading is fun!

Practice, practice, practice
Children should practice writing every day. To start this activity, read aloud from the storybook as much as possible. Then ask and discuss the class. What do you think Rocket liked about reading? What does Rocket like about reading? The children can use the reproducible on this poster to write and draw their responses.

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALPHABET!

Photocopy and enlarge the alphabet cards for these activities and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.