**PALS Activities by Goal and Reading Level:**

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| **EMERGENT** | **Goals** | **Activities** |
| Identify letters | Play games with letter foam mats |
| Identify letter-sounds | Go on a sound hunt |
| Identify rhyme and syllables | Read rhyming books  |

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| **EMERGENT/****BEGINNING** | **Goals** | **Activities** |
| Identify letters and sounds rapidly | Play with magnetic letters |
| Firm up speech-to-print match (Concept of Word) | Read little books or poems |

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| **BEGINNING** | **Goals** | **Activities** |
| Apply knowledge of letters and sounds | Opportunities for writing |
| Practice reading with fluency | Read little books  |

**Activity Descriptions:**

**Play Games with Foam-Letter Mats**: Purchase a set of floor-sized foam letters from any retail store like Walmart, Amazon, Target, etc. These mats are interlocking with cut-out letters. Your child can play with the mats in creative ways but can also use the letters to reinforce letters and sounds. When it’s time to clean up, say, “Let’s put away the letter that says /m/,” or “Find me the letter *P*.”

**Go on a Sound Hunt**: If you’re driving in the car, sitting in a restaurant, grocery shopping, reading a book…ask your child to find specific sounds. It’s an “I Spy” game with sounds. For example, “I spy a letter that says /b/.” In addition to helping your child practice sounds, it brings awareness that print is everywhere.

**Read Rhyming Books**: Rhymes are word endings with the same sounds: bat/cat or mama/llama. Introducing your child to nursery rhymes, songs, chants, and rhyming books may be easier than you think! Your local library and bookstore will have a broad selection of rhyming books. Also try: <http://fun-a-day.com/rhyming-books/> .When reading, draw attention to the words that rhyme. You can also pick out words and have your child clap the number of syllables he/she hears.

**Play with Magnetic Letters**: Depending on your child’s needs, he/she can:

* find the letters in his/her name and correctly spell his/her name
* arrange the letters in ABC order
* sort upper and lower-case letters
* match upper and lower-case letters

You can also can incorporate sounds by asking, “Can you pick up the letter that says /b/?” Work toward quick recognition and identification!

**Reading Little Books or Poems:** If your child’s teacher sends home little books, poems, or rhymes, try these prompts to support your child:

* “Point to each word as you read the rhyme with me.”
* “Let’s count the words in the first line.”
* “Where is the first word in this line? Where is the last word in this line?”
* “Where does the word begin? Where does the word end?”
* “How do you know where one word ends and another begins?”
* “Can you find the word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on this page? How did you know?”

**Opportunities for Writing**: Purposeful writing is the best way for your child to apply learned spelling and practice applying letter-sound knowledge. Writing doesn’t need to be lengthy, but it allows your child to see that writing is useful- NOT something you just “do” at school. Help your child stretch words to sound them out. Some authentic writing activities include:

* Making a grocery list
* Taking dinner orders or drink orders before a family meal
* Writing in a “thankful journal”
* Keeping a “thinking” journal- particularly helpful for kids who have a hard time falling asleep at night
* Writing emails or letters to family or friends (e.g., thank you notes; birthday cards; weekly communication with grandparents)
* Writing during play: grocery lists in the play kitchen or writing directions for building a Lego set
* Making a to-do list
* Writing about a special trip
* Writing apology notes

**Practice Reading with Fluency:** Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading allows children to become more fluent in their reading, increasing their accuracy, expression, and appropriate pausing at punctuation. Rereading is particularly helpful for beginning readers.