

Play "Guess the Covered Letter."

Show the alphabet mat and ask the student to cover his or her eyes to create a bit of mystery.

You will use the pennies to quickly cover ten letters.

The student opens his or her eyes.

Sing the a-b-c song together as you both point to each letter (yours above the letter, students' under the letter) promoting one-to-one correspondence.

As you sing, you refrain from naming the first covered letter to see if the student can name it on his or her own.

Reveal the letter to heighten kids' awareness of the letter name and the shape. Praise, praise, praise correct responses.

Quickly discuss characteristics of the letter and the sound it represents to promote recall.

NOTE: If s/he's unable to name a letter, begin with letter a, again, and you name the covered letter, reveal it, and talk about it.

Start, again, at letter a, and sing the alphabet song. Stop on the next covered letter and follow the same procedures as a listed above.