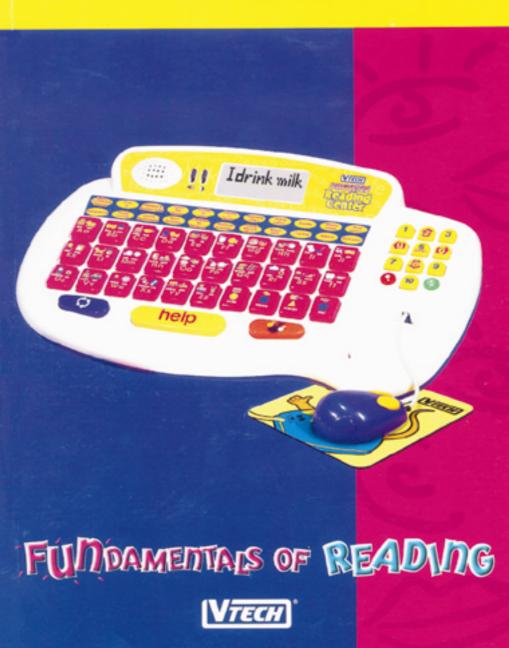
A Parent's Guide to using the Phonics Reading Center[™] learning toy



Dear Parent,

You know how important reading is to your child's future. If your child can read, your child can do anything. That's because reading is the foundation upon which all fundamental learning is built. A good beginning is absolutely essential.

That is why VTech designed the Fundamentals of Reading product line to help your child develop language skills, the skills crucial to learning how to read. Our age-appropriate activities will help your child feel successful every step of the way. In fact, we provide three levels of reading progression to help your child move from a beginning reader, to a growing reader, and finally to an advancing reader. Our curriculum begins with letters, letter sounds, and letter formation all the way through vowels, consonants, word recognition - even full sentences. With the Fundamentals of Reading product line, children think they're playing, but they're actually learning. So their confidence grows, their self-esteem grows and their appetite for learning grows, too.

How Can You Help?

You've already started by showing you're interested in your child's reading development. By being a good role model, your child should see you read books, magazines and newspapers. Of course, there are other sources including billboards, grocery lists, recipes and street signs. What's most important is that reading is a fun, interactive experience that should be shared with your child daily.

We encourage you to play the activities in the Fundamentals of Reading product line together. You'll see first hand what progress your child is making. Children love positive reinforcement so praise your child's achievements. As your child embarks on the road to learning, he or she will encounter challenges. This is a natural part of the learning process. Please be patient and if your child needs help, be sure to provide it. Have fun. Remember, learning to read isn't a race. It doesn't matter who gets there first, it's simply "getting there" that really counts.

We wish you the best as you help your child get off to a great start in becoming a lifelong learner. As your child grows, count on VTech to be there with fun, innovative learning toys to help your child do his or her best every step of the way.

We thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility of building your child's future. When your child can read, your child can do anything.

Sincerely,

Your Friends at VTech®

PHONICS READING CENTERTM SPEAKER VOLUME CONTROL CONTRAST LCD SCREEN TOUCH SENSITIVE **ACTIVITY BUTTONS** SWITCH SWITCH **NUMBER BUTTONS**/ **ARROW AND** ENTER BUTTONS on BUTTON **OFF BUTTON ROLLER BALL** MOUSE LETTER/OBJECT REPEAT HELP MELODY SHAPE BUTTODS BUTTON BUTTON BUTTON BUTTONS MOUSE PAD TO BEGIN PLAY 1. To begin play, press the **ON BUTTON** (-). You will hear a short tune followed by "Hello! Are you ready to play?" Select from 22 activities by pressing the TOUCH SENSITIVE ACTIVITY BUTTONS. When you have Beginning chosen an activity, the friendly voice will guide Atta you while you are playing. 3. Press the LETTER BUTTONS to hear letters, letter sounds, and objects identified or to enter your answer for most of the activities.

TO BEG

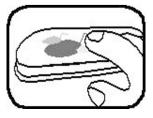
- Press the SHAPE BUTTONS to hear the shapes identified. You can also use these buttons to hear the 20 built-in melodies played in different instrument sounds.
- 5. Press the **NUMBER BUTTONS** to hear numbers identified or to enter your answers in the number-based activities. You can also use the **ARROWS** to move the LCD screen cursor up, down, left, or right. Press the **ENTER BUTTON** after using the arrows to enter your answer for most of the activities.
- 6. Use the **MOUSE** to select answers on the LCD screen.

7. Press the **REPEAT BUTTON** to hear the previous phrase or question repeated.

8. Press the HELP BUTTON once to hear the previous question repeated. If you press the Help button a second time, the learning toy will give you the answer. You will hear "Let me help" followed by the answer to a question. For activities that do not ask questions, you will hear an invalid sound.

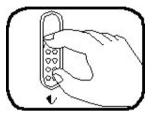


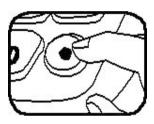
 Press the MELODY BUTTON () to hear twenty different melodies randomly.



- 10. To adjust the volume, slide the VOLUME CON-**TROL SWITCH** (**I**)))) located to the left of the LCD screen up for the high volume position $(\blacksquare))$) or down for the low volume position (
- 11. To adjust the contrast of the LCD screen. slide the CONTRAST SWITCH (to the left of the LCD screen up for the high contrast position (🌑) or down for the low contrast position (
- 12. To turn the learning toy off, press the OFF BUTTON (
). You will hear a short tune followed by "Bye-bye!"







13. You can choose from 22 different activities:

- 1. Letters, Numbers and Shapes 12. Alphabetizing
- 2. Find It
- Alphabet & Number Order
- 4. Learn the Words
- 5. Sounds of Letters
- 6. Sounds of Words
- 7. Beginning Letters
- 8. Ending Letters
- 9. Spelling
- 10. Missing Vowels
- 11. Word Families

- 13. Puzzle Pictures
- 14. Spatial Relationships
- 15. Word Scramble
- 16. Complete the Sentence
- 17. Sentence Scrambler
- 18. Sound Match and Music
- 19. Mouse Skills
- 20. Counting
- 21. Addition
- 22. Subtraction

PHONICS READING CENTER^{***} ACTIVITIES ACTIVITY 1 - LETTERS, NUMBERS AND SHAPES

This activity will help your child strengthen his or her letter, number and shape recognition skills by reviewing the 26 letters of the alphabet, the numbers 1-10, and four basic shapes.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Letters, Numbers and Shapes activity is presented to your child to reinforce the twenty-six letters of the alphabet, numbers 1-10, and four shapes. Your child may explore at his or her own pace by choosing which letters, numbers or shapes to press. This free exploration is very inviting and encourages your child to take risks by pressing letters, numbers, and shapes that he or she may not be familiar with.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press the Letters, Numbers and Shapes touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn the letters, numbers and shapes!" The friendly voice will say "Press a button."
- 2. Press the letter buttons to hear the letters identified. The letter animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 3. Press the number buttons to hear the numbers identified. The number animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- Press the shape buttons to hear the shapes identified. The shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.



ACTIVITY 1 - LETTERS, NUMBERS AND SHAPES (continued)

How Can You Help?

- Encourage your child to find the beginning letter of his or her name as well as other names of family members on the learning toy. Ask your child to think of his or her friends' names or favorite toys, stuffed animals, etc. and guide your child in finding and saying the beginning letters of those words on the learning toy.
- Write some random letters, numbers, or shapes down on paper and encourage your child to find the matching letter, number or shape on the learning toy. After your child presses the letter, number or shape button, ask him or her to tell you what letter, number, or shape it was.
- Allow your child plenty of free time to explore this activity. Have your child touch and trace the letters, numbers and shapes on the learning toy. He or she should say the name of the letters, numbers, or shapes while tracing them. Have your child say, "The name of the letter, number, or shape is ____."

ACTIVITY 2 - FIND IT

This activity reinforces letter, number, word, and shape identification by having your child locate random letters, numbers, words or shapes. A friendly voice will ask your child to find a certain letter, number, word or shape. Your child must rely on the skills presented in the previous activity in order to play this activity.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Find It activity is presented to familiarize your child with the twenty-six letters of the alphabet, numbers 1-10, fifty-two words and four shapes.

Find

Find the

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press the Find It touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's find a letter, number, word or shape."
- The friendly voice will ask a random question. For example, "Find the letter A." The question animation will appear on the LCD screen.

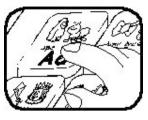
ACTIVITY 2 - FIND IT (continued)

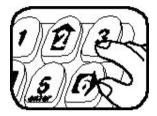
3. Press the letter buttons to answer the questions about letters or words.

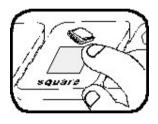
4. Press the number buttons to answer the questions about numbers.

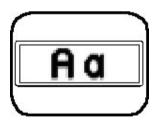
5. Press the shape buttons to answer the questions about shapes.

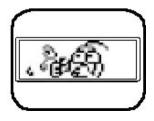
- 6. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound with a positive phrase and the answer will be identified. A positive animation and the answer will appear on the LCD screen.
- 7. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound with an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.











ACTIVITY 2 - FIND IT (continued)

How Can You Help?

- Watch your child play this activity. You will be able to determine which letters, numbers, words, or shapes your child is successful in identifying. It will also give a good indication of which letters, numbers, words or shapes your child is having difficulty identifying. Be sure to make note of those and continue to have your child work on them. Remember to be positive and praise the good work that your child has done!
- Write some letters of the alphabet, numbers (1-10), words, or shapes down on paper and encourage your child to find the matching letter, number, word or shape on the learning toy.
- Create a list with your child of words that begin with each of the letters of the alphabet. You may want to create a booklet for your child with these words. Devote a page to each letter of the alphabet.

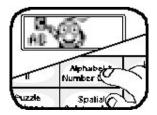
ACTIVITY 3 - ALPHABET & NUMBER ORDER

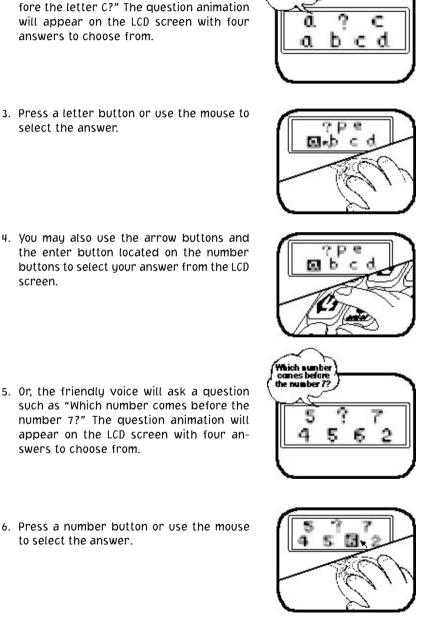
This activity strengthens alphabetical and numerical order skills. Your child will recognize that the letters of the alphabet and numbers are arranged in a certain order. He or she will have opportunities to tell which letter comes before or after certain letters as well as which number comes before or after certain numbers. Your child will be asked specific questions such as, "Which letter comes before the letter B?" He or she will then have the opportunity to look at the learning toy and find that letter.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Alphabet Order activity is designed to familiarize your child with the alphabet and numbers 1-10. Your child will also be taught the concept of before and after. This activity provides opportunities for your child to identify letters of the alphabet and numbers on his or her own.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Alphabet & Number Order touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn alphabet and number order."





2. The friendly voice will ask a random ques-

tion. For example, "Which letter comes be-

3. Press a letter button or use the mouse to

4. You may also use the arrow buttons and the enter button located on the number buttons to select your answer from the LCD screen.

- such as "Which number comes before the number 7?" The question animation will appear on the LCD screen with four answers to choose from.
- 6. Press a number button or use the mouse to select the answer.

PHONICS READING CENTERTM ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 3 - ALPHABET & NUMBER ORDER

(continued)

Which letter comes before

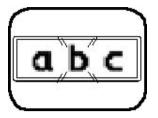
the letter C?

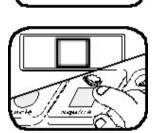
ACTIVITY 3 - ALPHABET & NUMBER ORDER (continued)

- If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound with a positive phrase. A positive animation will appear and the answer will flash on the LCD screen.
- If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound with an encouraging phrase. A negative animation will appear and the incorrect answer will be identified. The question will be repeated.
- When any shape button is pressed, the shape will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.

How Can You Help?

- Together with your child, look through magazines, newspapers, or catalogs to help your child cut out the letters of the alphabet or numbers 1-10. After you have found all of the letters or numbers, mix them up and lay them in front of your child. Have your child glue them one by one onto a large piece of paper in alphabetical or numerical order. Be sure to ask questions using the words before and after while you are determining the correct sequence.
- Your child should understand what the terms "before" and "after" really mean. To help your child grasp this concept, practice this skill with your child. You may wish to use objects that your child is familiar with (i.e. colored blocks, small toys, etc.). Lay three or four objects in a line and talk about before and after in regards to those particular objects. This should help your child understand the concept of before and after.
- Talk about "before" and "after" in regards to events that have occurred throughout your child's day. For instance, ask your child, "What did you do before lunch?" or "What do we usually do after dinner?"





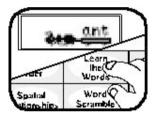
ACTIVITY 4 - LEARN THE WORDS

This activity builds vocabulary skills. Your child will be exposed to fifty-two various objects with different beginning letters. He or she will learn the beginning letter for each of these objects. As your child presses a letter button, a friendly voice will let your child know the name of the object that is pictured on the letter buttons.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Learn the Words activity teaches new vocabulary words to your child. Your child will have a chance to learn two words that begin with every letter of the alphabet.

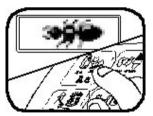
ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

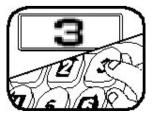
 Press the Learn the Words touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn some words!" The friendly voice will say "Press a letter button."



- 2. Press a letter button the first time to identify the object pictured on the left. The word and the object animation will appear on the LCD screen. A sound effect or short tune will follow.
- 3. Press the letter button a second time to identify the object pictured on the right. The word and the object animation will appear on the LCD screen. A sound effect or short tune will follow.
- 4. When any number button is pressed, the number will be identified and a number animation will appear on the LCD screen.







ACTIVITY 4 - LEARN THE WORDS (continued)

 When any shape button is pressed, the shape will be identified and a shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.

How Can You Help?

- Your child may already be asking you questions regarding beginning letters of words such as, "What does the word bike begin with?" This is great! Be sure to answer your child! Your child's curiosity will only increase by playing with this activity.
- Encourage your child to think of other objects that begin with the letters that he or she is pressing on the learning toy. If your child is having difficulty thinking of an object, go ahead and give some suggestions. By continuing to do this, your child will soon be able to think of objects on his or her own.
- Point out objects that surround your child in your home. At first you may need to tell your child, "B is for bed!" Model this behavior for your child. Your child will hopefully begin to tell you what letters go with various objects.

ACTIVITY 5 - SOUNDS OF LETTERS

This activity teaches the sounds of the consonants and vowels. Your child will hear the correct pronunciation of each letter sound. He or she will recognize that the vowels A,E,I,O, and U can make two different sounds, both long and short. He or she will also recognize that the letters C, G, and Y can make more than one sound. Every time your child presses a letter button, the friendly voice will tell your child the sound(s) that each letter makes.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Sounds of Letters activity introduces your child to the sounds of the letters of the alphabet. Your child will recognize that all of the letters make a certain sound. He or she will learn that some letters even make two sounds. There are no specific instructions telling your child which button to press. This free exploration is very inviting and should encourage your child to take risks by pressing buttons that may be unfamiliar to him or her.

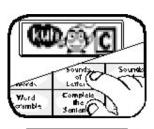
ACTIVITY 5 - SOUNDS OF LETTERS (continued)

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

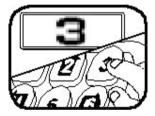
- 1 Press the **Sounds of Letters** touch sensitive activitu button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn the sounds of the letters!" Then the friendly voice will say "Press a letter button."
- 2. Press the letter button to hear the letter sounds. The letter animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 3. When any number button is pressed, the number will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.
- 4. Press the shape button to hear the shape identified. The shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.

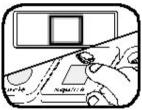
How Can You Help?

- Encourage your child to say the letter sounds along with the learning toy. Your child could practice by saying, "The name of the letter is B. The sound of the letter is buh."
- This skill takes lots and lots of practice. Remember to remain positive and praise your child when he or she can tell you the sound of a given letter.
- In everyday situations, have your child tell you what letter a certain object begins with. Repeat the word slowly for your child by really accentuating the beginning letter. Have your child tell you what sound that letter makes.









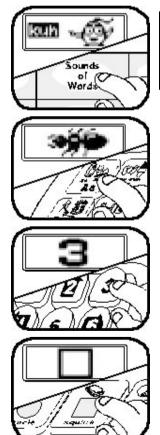
ACTIVITY 6 - SOUNDS OF WORDS

This activity introduces your child to sounding out words. Your child will be able to hear every letter sound within a given word when completing this activity. On each letter button, there are two objects pictured. The object on the right will be sounded out. These words will help your child learn phonics because they are very simple and easy to understand. Your child will be able to look at the letters of the word as it is being sounded out.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Sounds of Words activity is designed to help your child learn that letters make sounds and sounds put together make words. This activity provides many opportunities for your child to press any button he or she desires. Your child may press a certain object as many times as he or she desires. This activity offers free exploration to acquaint your child with sounding out words.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press the Sounds of Words touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn the sounds of words!" Then the friendly voice will say "Press a letter button."
- Press the letter button to identify the letter sounds of the object that appears on the right. For example, press the 'Aa' button and you will hear "ant" followed by the phonetic sounds of ant. The object animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- When any number button is pressed, the number will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.
- Press the shape button to hear the shape identified. The shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.



sounds of Mords

ACTIVITY 6 - SOUNDS OF WORDS (continued)

How Can You Help?

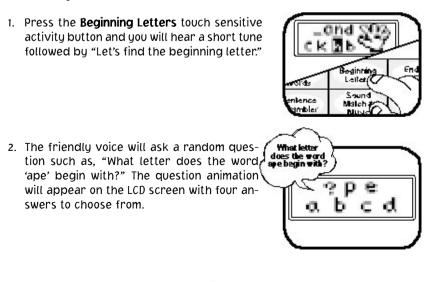
- Encourage your child to sound out the words with the friendly voice. Remind your child to look at the letters within the word while he or she is sounding out the word.
- Using the objects from the learning toy, write each of the words on cards. Have your child try sounding them out on his or her own. If your child does it correctly, have him or her illustrate the word on the back of the card. See how many your child can recognize.
- Using the cards mentioned above, lay two words out in front of your child, and then say the name of the word slowly for your child. Allow him or her to decide which word you have said. Check the illustration on the back of the card for correctness.

ACTIVITY 7 - BEGINNING LETTERS

This activity continues to reinforce consonant and vowel sounds. Your child will identify the missing beginning letter in various words.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Beginning Letters activity is created to help your child learn to spell a variety of words as well as gain confidence in listening for sounds of letters at the beginning of words.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:



ACTIVITY 7 - BEGINNING LETTERS (continued)

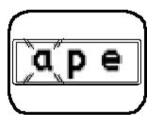
3. Press the letter button or use the mouse to select the answer from the LCD screen.

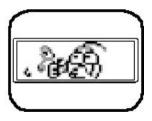
 You may also use the arrows and the enter button located on the number buttons to select your answer from the LCD screen.

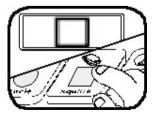
- 5. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. A positive animation will be shown and the answer animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 7. Press the shape button to hear the shape identified. The shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.

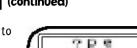












ACTIVITY 7 - BEGINNING LETTERS (continued)

How Can You Help?

- After your child has found a beginning letter correctly, have him or her tell you the meaning of the word, and then use the word in a sentence. This is a great way to see if your child understands the meaning of the word.
- Have your child write some of the words from this activity down on paper. Your child may wish to use paint, crayons, or markers to show the words he or she is able to spell.
- While you are reading stories with your child, cover up a beginning letter of a particular word. Ask your child to tell you what the beginning letter should be.

ACTIVITY 8 - ENDING LETTERS

This activity requires your child to finish spelling a short word by adding the ending letter of the word. Your child will need to rely on his or her knowledge of letters and their sounds in order to complete this activity.

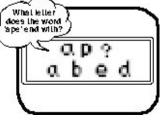
Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Ending Letters activity provides many opportunities for your child to apply his or her knowledge of letter sounds. Your child will learn how to spell many short words.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Ending Letters touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's find the ending letter."



 The friendly voice will ask a random question such as, "What letter does the word ('ape' end with?" The question animation will appear on the LCD screen with four answers to choose from.



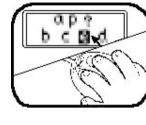
ENDING .etters

ACTIVITY 8 - ENDING LETTERS (continued)

3. Press the letter button or use the mouse to select the answer from the LCD screen.

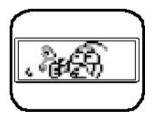
 You may also use the arrows and the enter button to select your answer from the LCD screen.

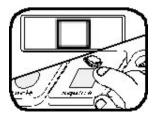
- 5. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase and the answer will be identified. A positive animation and the object animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- Press the shape button to hear the shape identified. The shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.











ACTIVITY 8 - ENDING LETTERS (continued)

How Can You Help?

- Using words from this activity, write some of them down on index cards, leaving the ending letter off. You may wish to provide three choices underneath the word in order for your child to choose from. Next, have your child take a card. He or she should determine what letter is missing in order to spell the word correctly. Let your child tell you the word that he or she has created.
- While your child is playing with the learning toy, be sure that he or she is spelling the words out loud after choosing the correct ending letter. Your child should be able to tell you the word.
- After your child correctly answers a question in this activity, ask him or her to use the word in a sentence to check for understanding of the word.

ACTIVITY 9 - SPELLING

This activity explores spelling skills. Your child must rely on his or her knowledge of letters and sounds in order to sound out and spell simple words. Your child will be asked to spell the words that identify the objects on the letter buttons. As your child presses each letter, the name of the letter will be identified. After the final letter has been pressed, the friendly voice will spell the entire word again and say the name of the object.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Spelling activity combines the skills of letter and sound recognition. Your child should be able to spell simple words using the skills taught throughout this activity.

Spellin

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press the **Spelling** touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn to spell words."
- 2. The friendly voice will ask a random question (How do you such as, "How do you spell ape?" The ques-(spell ape?" tion animation will appear on the LCD screen.

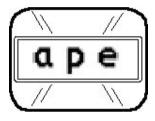
ACTIVITY 9 - SPELLING (continued)

3. Press the letter buttons to enter the correct answer.

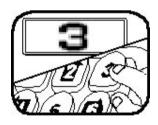
- 4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase followed by the answer. The object animation and the answer animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation, the object animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. When you press a number button, the number will be identified and a number animation will appear on the LCD screen.

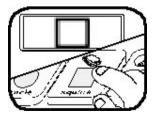
7. When any shape button is pressed, the shape will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.











ACTIVITY 9 - SPELLING (continued)

How Can You Help?

- After your child has spelled a word correctly, have him or her tell you the meaning of the word, and then use the word in a sentence. This is a great way to see if your child understands the meaning of the word.
- Have your child write some of the words from this activity down on paper. Your child may wish to use paint, crayons, or markers to show the words that he or she is able to spell.
- Your child may practice reading the words that he or she can now spell. Together with your child, say the name of the letters in the word and then say the name of the word.

ACTIVITY 10 - MISSING VOWELS

This activity strengthens spelling skills by having your child decide which vowel is missing in order to complete a word. Your child will be shown a word with one blank space somewhere within the word. Below the word, the letters of the vowels will appear. Your child must decide which letter is the missing vowel in the word.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Missing Vowels activity provides a good review of letter and sound recognition. When choosing an answer, your child will have to decide between the five vowels.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Missing Vowels touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's find the missing vowels."

 The friendly voice will ask a random question such as, "What vowel is missing in the word ant?" The question animation will be shown on the LCD screen with five vowels for you to choose from.



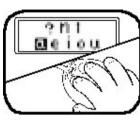
VOWELS

ACTIVITY 10 - MISSING VOWELS (continued)

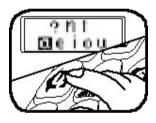
3. Press the letter button or use the mouse to select the answer.

 You may also use the arrows and the enter button located on the number buttons to select the answer from the LCD screen.

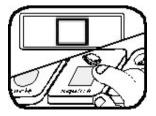
- 5. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase and the answer will be identified. A positive animation will be shown on the LCD screen.
- 6. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation, the object animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- When any shape button is pressed, the shape will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.











ACTIVITY 10 - MISSING VOWELS (continued)

How Can You Help?

- Review the names of the vowels *a*, *E*, *I*, *a*, *a*, *a*, *d*. Tell your child that there is a special name for these letters. The special name for this group of letters is vowels. Be sure that your child knows the sounds, both long and short vowel sounds.
- While reading books, magazines, signs, etc. to your child, draw attention to the vowels in words. Have your child tell you what the vowel is within a word.
- Using old magazines, have your child look for vowels in print. Help him or her cut out vowels. Next, organize all of the d's together, E's together, etc. and glue them onto the cards which have been labeled for each of the vowels. Keep the learning toy nearby for this activity so he or she may refer to the vowels when looking for vowels to cut out.

ACTIVITY 11 - WORD FAMILIES

This activity strengthens language development. Your child will be asked to pick out rhyming words in this activity. Your child will see a word on the LCD screen. There will be three other words shown. He or she must decide which words rhyme with the first word.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Word Families activity will help teach your child that certain word endings can be used to make a number of words. For example in the ATE family, you can make the words gate, rate, and fate. Your child will be able to recognize that the ending letters in word families do not change, only the beginning letters change. Your child will be able to spell many words by recognizing a word family.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Word Families touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn some rhyming words."



VORD MILIES

ACTIVITY 11 - WORD FAMILIES (continued)

- The friendly voice will ask a random question such as, "Pick the words that rhyme with king." The question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 3. Use the mouse to select the two rhyming words.

- 4. You may also use the arrows and the enter button located on the number buttons to select the answers from the LCD screen.
- If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. You will see a positive animation appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 7. When any shape button is pressed, the shape will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.



ACTIVITY 11 - WORD FAMILIES (continued)

How Can You Help?

- Familiarize yourself with word families as you play the learning toy with your child. While he or she is playing, see if your child can tell you what word family the word on the LCD screen belongs to. Have your child think of another word to go with that family.
- Make word family wheels. Cut out two circles making sure one is smaller than the other. On the edge of the large circle write the word family (i.e. UMP). Carefully cut out a small space in front of the U in UMP. Next, using your smaller circle, write a letter(s) on the edge that could be used to form words in the UMP word family. Continue with additional letter(s) by moving the circle. Then position the smaller circle underneath the large circle so that you see a letter next to UMP. Use a paper fastener to hold the circles together. Move the wheel so new words can be seen. Let your child tell you the name of each word. Try to make another wheel with a different word family. Good luck!
- While reading a book to your child or while your child is reading to you, pick out words in the story that belong to word families. Have your child tell another word that could be part of the family by changing the beginning letter(s).

ACTIVITY 12 - ALPHABETIZING

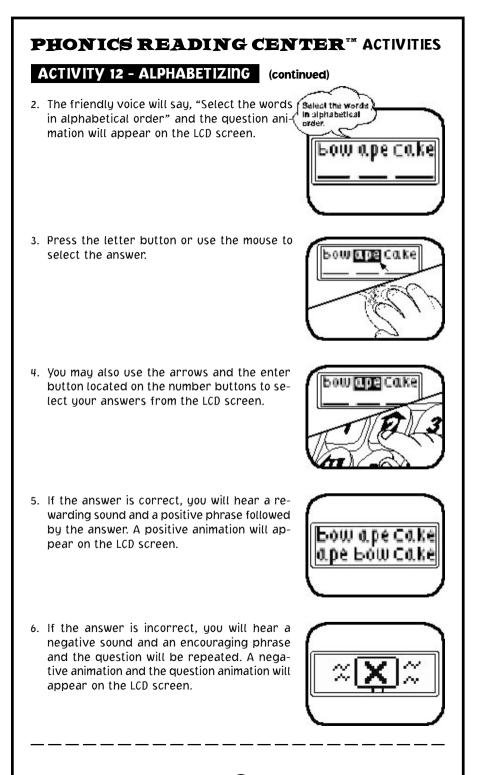
This activity strengthens alphabetical order skills. Your child will recognize that the letters of the alphabet are arranged in a certain order. He or she will have opportunities to apply this knowledge as he or she is asked to put three words in alphabetical order. Each of the three words will begin with a different letter.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Alphabetizing activity is designed to familiarize your child with the alphabet. Your child will also realize that words can be put in alphabetical order, not just letters in isolation.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Alphabetizing touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's put the words in ABC order."





ACTIVITY 12 - ALPHABETIZING (continued)

How Can Uou Help?

- Think of a particular category that your child is interested in. Together brainstorm about five words related to that category. Write them down in random order. (To make it easier, be sure each word begins with a different letter.) Next. have your child put them in alphabetical order. It may be very helpful if your child refers to the learning toy to see the correct order of the letters.
- If your child is having difficulty with this activity, remind him to only look at the first letter when alphabetizing words. (If two words begin with the same letter, you must look to the second letter in each word. This is an advanced alphabetizing skill. Your child should not be expected to know this.)
- When you are reading to your child, allow him or her to choose three or four words that he or she would like to put in alphabetical order.

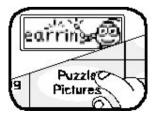
ACTVITY 13 - PUZZLE PICTURES

This activity introduces your child to compound words. Your child will learn how to combine two words together to make a new word. He or she will look at pictures on the LCD screen. By pressing the object buttons that match the pictures in the correct order, your child will create a compound word.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Puzzle Pictures activity is designed to help your child increase his or her vocabulary by introducing new words. Your child will recognize that a compound word is made up of two words. When the two words are joined together, a new word is made that has a new meaning.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Press the Puzzle Pictures touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn to make compound words."





ACTVITY 13 - PUZZLE PICTURES (continued)

- 2. The friendly voice will say, "Look at the pictures on the screen. Press the buttons of the pictures you see in the correct order." Two objects will appear one by one on the LCD screen.
- 3. Press the letter buttons to find the matching pictures you see on the LCD screen.

- 4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. The object animation and the answer animation will appear on the LCD screen. For example, you will hear "Ear plus ring is earring."
- 5. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation, the object animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.

How Can You Help?

• Encourage your child to think of other compound words. Talk about the meanings of these words with your child. Be sure to ask your child what two words make up the compound word.

earrina

- Think of some compound words. Next, write each word on an index card and cut out the two words as if you were creating puzzle pieces. Do this with all of the compound words. Then, mix all of the puzzle pieces up and have your child try to complete the puzzles.
- When reading to your child, let your child go on a compound word hunt. Ask him or her to be on the lookout for compound words. Have your child make a list of the compound words that he or she has found. You may have to assist your child with this. Next, have your child draw pictures to represent each word by itself as well as the compound word.

PHONICS READING CENTER^{***} ACTIVITIES ACTIVITY 14 - SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS

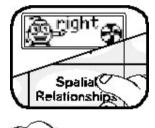
This activity strengthens language development by introducing your child to spatial relationships. He or she will identify the location of various objects. A friendly voice will ask your child questions such as, "Is the circle above or below the van?"

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Spatial Relationships activity teaches your child new important vocabulary words. The words taught in this activity will allow your child to understand more words when he or she is reading. Also, after completing this activity, your child could also use some of these spatial relationship words in his or her own writing.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press the Spatial Relationships touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn about location words."
- The friendly voice will ask a random question such as, "Is the circle above or below the van?" The question animation will appear on the LCD screen with two answers to choose from.
- 3. Use the mouse to select the answer from the LCD screen.

 You may also use the arrows and the enter button located on the number buttons to select your answer from the LCD screen.



QLOVE

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is the circle

belo

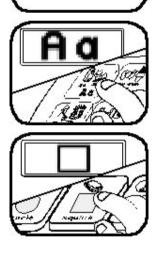




ACTIVITY 14 - SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS (continued)

- 5. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase followed by the answer. A positive animation will be shown on the LCD screen.
- 6. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 7. When any letter or shape button is pressed, the letter or shape will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.





How Can You Help?

- When giving directions to your child at home, be clear and specific. Use words such as under, below, next to, on the left/right, over, and above. For example, "Please put the book next to the blue lamp."
- Have your child draw pictures that represent each of the spatial relationship words taught in this activity. Allow your child to tell you a sentence or write a sentence about the picture.
- Go on a treasure hunt! Write clues with the words taught in this activity. Let your child try to figure out the clues and search for the treasure that you have hidden. Try to use at least five clues using a different spatial relationship word for each clue.

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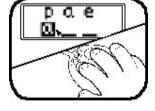
ACTIVITY 15 - WORD SCRAMBLE

This activity strengthens spelling skills by asking your child to put scrambled letters in the proper sequence to correctly spell a word. Picture clues will be given as your child tries to unscramble short words.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Word Scramble activity will help your child apply the skills that he or she will learn throughout this learning toy.

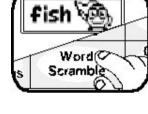
ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

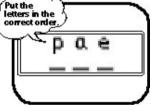
- Press the Word Scramble touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's unscramble the letters to make a word."
- 2. The friendly voice will say, "Put the letters in the correct order." An object animation and its scrambled letters will appear on the LCD screen.
- 3. Press the letter buttons or use the mouse to select the answer from the LCD screen.



 You may also use the arrows and the enter button located on the number buttons to select your answer from the LCD screen.







ACTIVITY 15 - WORD SCRAMBLE (continued)

- If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. A positive animation and the object animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase, and the question will be repeated. The negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.





How Can You Help?

- Together with your child, make up your own scrambled words with vocabulary words that are familiar to your child.
- Prepare a list of simple words for your child to unscramble. (Do not show your child the list.) Next, create a set of alphabet cards by using index cards. Choose a word from the list. Tell your child what word he or she will be unscrambling. Then pull out the letters from your alphabet cards that are needed to spell the word. (If you need two of a certain letter, prepare an additional card.) Scramble the cards and have your child unscramble the cards in order to spell the word.
- Make a fishing game with your child. Using scrambled words from the learning toy, write each scrambled word on a paper fish. Next, print the unscrambled words on index cards using the same words. Your child must pick a scrambled fish and match it with the unscrambled fish. Be sure to check that a pair has been made.

ACTIVITY 16 - COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

This activity allows your child to read a sentence. Your child will need to use a picture clue as well as other words in the sentence to determine a missing word within a sentence. Your child will see a picture of a particular object flash on the LCD screen. Next, a sentence will appear on the LCD screen with a blank space to show where the word is missing. Your child will need to rely on the picture clue shown earlier as well as the other words in the sentence to determine the missing word.

ACTIVITY 16 - COMPLETE THE SENTENCE (continued)

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Complete the Sentence activity is designed to teach your child about sentence structure. Your child will learn that sentences must convey a complete thought. By finding the missing word, the thought will be completed. Your child will also sharpen his or her vocabulary skills by searching for the correct word in order to complete the sentence.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

COMPLETE THE

- Press the Complete the Sentence touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn how to complete a sentence."
- 2. The friendly voice will say "Find the missing word in the sentence!" The question animation will appear on the LCD screen. You will need to fill in the blank to complete the sentence on the LCD screen.
- 3. Press a letter button to find the object to complete the question.

4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. A positive animation and the answer animation will appear on the LCD screen.









ACTIVITY 16 - COMPLETE THE SENTENCE (continued)

- 5. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation, the object and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. When any number or shape button is pressed. the number or shape will be identified and it will appear on the LCD screen.

How Can You Help?

- When you are reading a story to your child that he or she has already heard before, leave a word out of a particular sentence and see if your child is able to determine a word that would make sense in the sentence.
- Let your child practice writing sentences. Remind your child that a sentence must tell a complete thought. Let your child share his or her sentences with you.
- Have your child keep a journal at home in which he or she records daily happenings. Encourage your child to write about his or her interests. *Your child may wish to illustrate what he or she has written about.*

ACTIVITY 17 - SENTENCE SCRAMBLER

This activity helps develop your child's language skills. Your child must use his or her knowledge of letters and sounds in order to unscramble simple sentences. Words will scroll across the LCD screen in random order. Your child must read all of the words and then decide the correct sentence order.

ACTIVITY 17 - SENTENCE SCRAMBLER (continued)

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Sentence Scrambler activity provides your child with opportunities to read complete sentences. Your child will also recognize that a sentence tells a complete thought. Also, while playing this activity, your child will see that the first word in every sentence must begin with a capital letter and it must end with an end mark such as a period.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

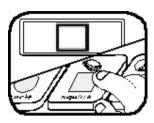
- Press the Sentence Scrambler touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's unscramble the words to make a sentence." The LCD screen will scroll the words of a sentence in random order.
- 2. Use the mouse to select the words in the correct order.

- 3. You may also use the arrows and the enter button located on the number buttons to select your answer from the LCD screen.
- 4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. A postive animation and the correct sentence will be shown on the LCD screen.
- 5. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound with an encouraging response followed by a negative animation. The question will be repeated.



ACTIVITY 17 - SENTENCE SCRAMBLER

 Press any shape button to hear the shape identified. The shape animation will appear on the LCD screen.



(continued)

How Can You Help?

- Allow your child time to compose his or her own sentences. Remind him or her to use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and an end mark (period, question mark or exclamation point) at the end.
- Make up simple sentences for your child. Write each of the words on cards and then mix up the cards. See if your child can unscramble the sentence.
- Point out sentences to your child while you are reading to him or her. Ask your child to look for capital letters and end marks.

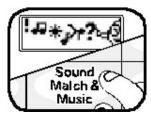
ACTIVITY 18 - SOUND MATCH AND MUSIC

This activity stimulates creative expression by playing cheerful melodies and sounds of various objects from the learning toy. Your child will have opportunities to hear a melody and also chances to match a sound to an object.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Sound Match and Music activity provides your child with an opportunity to listen to music while distinguishing sounds. Your child will have to listen carefully and be alert when trying to match the objects to their sounds.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Sound Match and Music touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's match the sounds and play music."



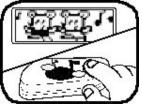
SOUND MATC

ACTIVITY 18 - SOUND MATCH AND MUSIC (continued)

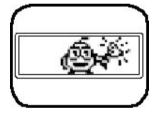
- 2. The friendly voice will ask a random guestion such as, "What object sounds like ?" The matching object animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 3. Press the correct letter button to choose the answer.

- 4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase and the answer will be identified. You will see a positive animation appear on the LCD screen, followed by the object.
- 5. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound with an encouraging phrase. and the question will be repeated. You will see a negative animation appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. Press the melody button and you will hear 20 built-in melodies randomly.









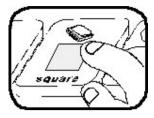


What object sounds like

ACTIVITY 18 - SOUND MATCH AND MUSIC (continued)

7. Press the shape buttons while listening to the built-in melodies to change the instrument sound of the melody that is being played.





How Can Uou Help?

- Provide plenty of time for your child's creative expression. Ask your child to think of new words that go along with the melody of the song. ask your child to share his or her new creation with others!
- Have your child draw or paint a picture about a song from the learning toy. Your child may wish to draw or paint a series of pictures that describe the sona.
- Play a game with your child. Make familiar sounds such as animal noises. various types of transportation, etc. and let your child try to auess what sound you have made. Let your child have a chance to be the sound maker. This time. you can avess!

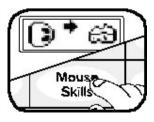
ACTIVITY 19 - MOUSE SKILLS

This activity strengthens hand-eye coordination. Your child will practice moving the mouse to specific places instructed on the LCD screen. A mouse will appear somewhere on the LCD screen. There will also be a piece of cheese. Your child needs to bring the mouse to the cheese by using the computer mouse to get it there!

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Mouse Skills activity is designed to help your child become more comfortable using the computer mouse. Your child will be strengthening his or her hand-eye coordination skills by playing this activity.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Press the Mouse Skills touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn to use the mouse!" Then the friendly voice will give an instruction such as, "Move the mouse to the cheese,"

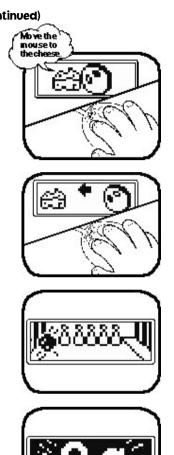


ACTIVITY 19 - MOUSE SKILLS (continued)

- Move the mouse up, down, left or right, depending on the location of the cheese on the LCD screen. The mouse head will move in the same direction as you move the mouse.
- If you move the mouse in the proper direction and select the cheese, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase. A positive animation will appear on the LCD screen. The next skill test will appear on the LCD screen.
- If you do not move the mouse correctly, you will hear an encouraging phrase and a negative animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 5. If a letter, or shape button is pressed, it will be identified and the object animation will appear on the LCD screen.

How Can You Help?

- Watch your child while he or she is playing this activity. Check to see if he or she understands how the mouse operates. Be sure to show your child if he or she is having difficulty.
- If your child is unfamiliar with using a computer mouse, it may be helpful if you place your hand on top of your child's hand and help guide your child during the first few times he or she uses the mouse.
- Allow your child lots of practice with this activity. In time, your child should be able to manipulate the mouse quite easily. Remember, this skill takes practice and patience!



ACTIVITY 20 - COUNTING

This activity helps your child learn how to count. Your child will use visual clues to help him or her determine the correct number of shapes pictured.

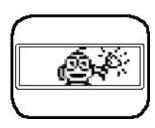
Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Counting activity is presented to teach your child about number and object association. Your child will benefit from being able to count the pictured shapes.

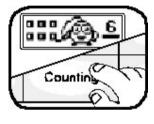
ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the **Counting** touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn to count."

- The friendly voice will ask a random question such as, "How many triangles are there?" A group of shapes will appear on the LCD screen with four answers to choose from.
- 3. Press the number buttons or use the mouse to answer the question from the LCD screen.

4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase followed by the answer. A positive animation will appear on the LCD screen.



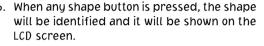






ACTIVITY 20 - COUNTING

- 5. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.
- 6. When any shape button is pressed, the shape will be identified and it will be shown on the LCD screen



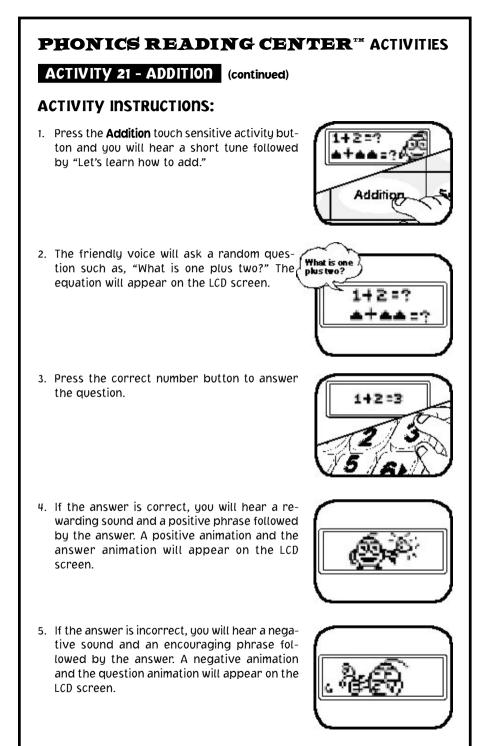
How Can You Help?

- Provide plenty of opportunities for your child to count various objects. your child may enjoy counting with coins, marbles, beans, etc.
- - While reading stories with pictures, if the pictures allow, have your child look for certain objects in the pictures and count how many there are of a particular object.
 - Once your child can count beyond 10, have him or her continue to use real objects to count. See if your child can group by tens. Then have uour child count by tens and add the remaining number to see how many are in all.

ACTIVITY 21 - ADDITION

This activity introduces your child to simple addition by asking him or her to answer a numerical equation. A picture will accompany each equation.

Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Addition activity will introduce your child to the parts of a numerical equation. He or she will learn that in order to get a sum (or answer), you must add two numbers (addends) together.



ACTIVITY 21 - ADDITION (continued)

How Can You Help?

- Show your child the number buttons on the keyboard. Tell him or her to use them as a number line to help solve the problems.
- Have your child use tangible objects such as pennies, beans, blocks, etc. to show the numbers being added. This should be helpful in finding the sum or total.
- When your child is playing the activity, encourage him or her to tell a story problem to go along with the numerical equation.

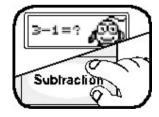
ACTIVITY 22 - SUBTRACTION

This activity introduces your child to simple subtraction by having him or her find the difference between two numbers. A picture will accompany each equation.

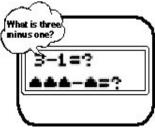
Learning Benefits for Your Child - The Subtraction activity will introduce your child to a subtraction equation. Your child will recognize that when you subtract one number from another, you are finding the difference between the two numbers.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

 Press the Subtraction touch sensitive activity button and you will hear a short tune followed by "Let's learn how to subtract."



 The friendly voice will ask a random question such as, "What is three minus one?" The equation will appear on the LCD screen.



ACTIVITY 22 - SUBTRACTION (continued)

3. Press the correct number button to answer the question.

- 4. If the answer is correct, you will hear a rewarding sound and a positive phrase followed by the answer. A positive animation and the answer animation will appear on the LCD screen
- 5. If the answer is incorrect, you will hear a negative sound and an encouraging phrase, and the question will be repeated. A negative animation and the question animation will appear on the LCD screen.

How Can Uou Help?

- Show your child the number buttons on the keyboard. Encourage him or her to use them as a number line when finding the difference between two numbers.
- Have your child use tangible objects such as pennies, beans, blocks, etc. to show the numbers being subtracted. This should be helpful in finding the difference.
- When your child is playing the activity, encourage him or her to tell a story problem to go along with the subtraction equation.

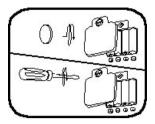






BATTERY INSTALLATION

- 1. Make sure the unit is **Off**.
- Locate the battery cover on the bottom of the unit. Use a coin or screwdriver to loosen the screw. Install 4 "AA" (UM-3/LR6) batteries following the diagram inside the battery box. (The use of new, alkaline batteries is recommended for maximum performance.)



3. Replace the battery cover and tighten the screw to secure the battery cover.

BATTERY NOTICE

- Install batteries correctly observing the polarity (+, -) signs to avoid leakage.
- Do not mix old and new batteries.
- Do not use batteries of different types.
- *Remove exhausted or new batteries from the learning toy when you are not going to use it for a long time.*
- Do not dispose of batteries in fire.
- Do not attempt to recharge ordinary batteries.

WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THE USE OF RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES.

AUTOMATIC SHUT - OFF

To preserve battery life, the Phonics Reading Center[™] learning toy will turn off automatically after several minutes without input. The unit can be turned on again by pressing the 0N button.

NOTE: If for some reason the program/activity stops working, then please follow these steps:

- 1. Please turn the unit off.
- 2. Interrupt the power supply by removing the batteries.
- 3. Let the unit stand for a few minutes, then replace the batteries.
- 4. Turn the unit on. The unit will now be ready to play again.

If the problem persists, please call our Consumer Services Department at 1-800-521-2010 in the U.S., 1-800-267-7377 in Canada, or 01235-546810 in the U.K.

WARNING: All packing materials such as tape, plastic sheets, wire ties and tags are not part of this toy and should be discarded for your child's safety.

PHONICS READING CENTER^{**} ACTIVITIES CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- 1. Keep the unit clean by wiping it with a slightly damp cloth.
- 2. Keep the unit out of direct sunlight and away from any direct heat source.
- 3. Remove the batteries when the unit is not in use for an extended period of time.
- 4. Do not drop the unit on hard surfaces and do not expose the unit to moisture or water.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Creating and developing the Fundamentals of Reading product line is accompanied by a responsibility that we at VTECH® take very seriously. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information which forms the value of our products. However, errors sometimes can occur. It is important for you to know that we stand behind our products and encourage you to call our Consumer Services Department at 1-800-521-2010 in the U.S., 1-800-267-7377 in Canada, or 01235-546810 in the U.K. with any problems and/or suggestions that you might have. A service representative will be happy to help you.

NOTE: This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and if not installed and used properly, that is, in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, it may cause interference to radio and television reception. It has been type tested and found to comply within the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J of Part 15 FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- 1. Reorient the receiving antenna.
- 2. Relocate this product with respect to the receiver.
- 3. Move this product away from the receiver.

Look for these additional products in the Fundamentals of Reading product line



Alphabet Apple" 3 years and up 80-26800



Flip For Phonics 3-5 years 80-29/00



Alphabert The Ready to Read Robot* % o years 20-24460



Language Laptop" 5.8 years 80-2x001



Phonics Reading Center* 5.8 years 80-26100

Our helpful Consumer Services staff is available to answer product questions and to assist in finding a retailer nearest you

USA

1-800-521-2010 www.vtechkids.com CANADA 1-800-267-7377 www.vtechcanada.com

UK 01235-546810



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