



PICTURE SHAPES FOR LEARNING LETTERS

In an experimental study by Shmidman and Ehri (2010) it was found that English-speaking preschoolers who were taught 10 Hebrew letter-sound relations using mnemonics that embedded letter shapes in drawings of objects (i.e., whose shapes resembled the letters and whose English names began with the letters' sounds /e/-egg) learned the letters quicker, remembered them better a week later, were less likely to confuse the letters and were better at using this knowledge in reading and spelling tasks compared to a control group of children who were taught the letters with objects that did not depict the letter shapes.

These findings support previous research in the area of the importance of linking the letters of the alphabet not only to words which begin with the sound represented by the letter (a-apple) but that the word chosen can easily be represented by a picture and the shape of that picture has some relationship to the shape of the letter.

Maximize your child's learning of the sounds of the alphabet by making these linkages. This is the strategy used in the Cracking the ABC Code Multisensory Reading Program Level 1 (www.crackingtheabccode.com/index.php?page=289).

Reference

Shmidman, A., & Ehri, L. (2010). Embedded picture mnemonics to learn letters, *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 14 (2), p. 159