

Teaching Day One of 'a', 'g' and 't' printed lower case letters Emphasis printed 'a'

It is extremely important to explain to children, that when books are printed the lower case letters 'a', 'g' and 't' are made entirely different than we write them. This can be a very confusing concept if not taught. The Sight and Sound Reading Alphabet has the printed 'a', 'g' and 't' attached to the alphabet as you teach the concept. (Remember, keep pointing as you discuss individual letters.)

Teacher: To demonstrate this lesson, use a classroom Big Book or a book that the printed letters can easily be seen by who you are teaching this lesson. Make sure the book you select has enough of the printed letter 'a' words, for the children to find some of them.

- "We know that all the letters can be written two ways. (Use pointer on classroom alphabet.) We have a capital 'R', we have a lower case 'r'. We have a capital 'F', we have a lower case 'f'. But, I want to teach you about three very special letters. We never have to write these letters. They are in most of the books you will read and when you use the computer. Today, we are going to talk about one of the special letters, the printed 'a'. We all know that this is a book. A book is printed in a factory. When books are printed, there are five letters that are printed different than the way we write them: The lower case/little 'a', lower case/little 'g' and the lower case/little 't', and the upper case 'I' and upper case 'J'." (Teacher, the children will grasp this concept and retain it if you show them how hard it is to write the printed 'a' on the board as you talk about the letter 'a'. They will understand why we don't write it that way.)
- "Today, let's look at the printed 'a'. Let's see if we can find some words in this Big Book that have the printed 'a' in them," (Teacher, have the class help you find several words with 'a' in them.)
- "Now, since we have learned that there is another 'a', an 'a' that is printed in books and the computer, I am going to show it to you on our Sight and Sound Reading Alphabet." (Teacher: slip off the sleeve covering the 'a', or, just point to the alphabet 'a'.)
- "Remember, you never have to write this letter. Just remember that it is always a lower case a or little a". This 'a' will be in many words you will read.