

Alphabet Arc Activities

- Have students match the letters to the letters on the arc within 2 minutes. After they've placed the letters correctly, have them physically touch every single letter and say its name. Be sure not to sing it. Do not let them touch a C and say B, it must be touch C, say C.
- You can work on some basic vocabulary that many students with dyslexia do not have. Introduce them to the initial letter of the alphabet is A, the final letter of the alphabet is Z, the two medial letters are M and N. Have them tell you how many letters are in the alphabet (26). The reason for teaching initial, medial, and final is because when they are reading (decoding) a word, and they do it incorrectly, we can point them to the initial sound (the first letter) and what sound would they expect, or to the medial sound or final sound and what sound do they expect. - Do this every day, every time they work with the alphabet arc. Repetition builds strong pathways and that's what we want.
- How many of you notice your child doesn't know left or right, before or after. Another activity you can do every day is have them say "my left hand is my before hand," and hold up their left hand. Then, "my right hand is my after hand," and hold their right hand up. Again, daily practice of this as well. You can put this to work with the alphabet arc. Ask them, what letter comes before D, or any other letter, point to D with their right hand and use their left (before) hand to point to the C and say, "C comes before D." You can do that with any letter or the right (after) hand as well.
- You can have them take the letters and put them in one row or two rows (A-M and N-Z). Again, have them touch and name every letter.
- You can use the arc to begin building and reading words. For example, put all the letters on the arc, then say, "I want you to build AT," and the student says /a/, pulls down the A,

then /t/ and pulls down the T. You can do a word chain activity, like build the word CAT, now make it BAT, they change the C for a B. Then build the word BAN, and they change the T to a N, then build the word BUN, and they change the A to the U. Be sure to only change one letter at a time. Never have them change more than one letter. You can search online for word chain or word ladder activities to get lists of words, but make sure they only change one letter/sound at a time.