

Issue Areas:
Education,
Literacy



ABCs Flash Cards

There is an alarming literacy crisis in America today and it begins with children. According to Reading is Fundamental (RIF), a leading children's literacy non-profit, twenty-five million children in the U.S. cannot read proficiently. Millions of children from low-income areas don't have the tools they need to learn.

You can make a difference by making sets of alphabet flashcards to donate to a preschool, daycare or after-school program.



What You Need

- Plain, white paper plates (26 for each set)
- Crayons or markers
- White paper
- Nontoxic glue
- Old magazines
- Scissors
- Alphabet stencils (optional)



How You Do It

- 1** Contact a preschool, daycare or after-school program in a low-income area and ask if they would accept homemade alphabet flashcards.
- 2** Go through old magazines and cut out kid-friendly images of things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. For example, a dog for "D".
- 3** Cut out 26 (or more if you are making multiple sets) paper circles that will fill the center of your paper plates.
- 4** On each circle, toward the top, draw (using stencils if you have them) the upper case and lower case of a letter of the alphabet. In the end you should have 26 circles, one with each letter of the alphabet.
- 5** In the middle of each circle, under the letters you drew, glue the magazine picture that matches the letter. For example, under "Dd" paste the picture of a dog.

- 6 Under the picture, write the name of the object in the picture. For example, under the picture of the dog write “dog”.
- 7 Glue each circle to the center of a paper plate.
- 8 Bring the finished flashcards to the preschool, daycare or after-school program that is accepting your donation.



Before the project

READ ONE OF THESE BOOKS.

Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

Patricia Polacco is now one of America's most loved children's book creators, but once upon a time, she was a little girl named Trisha starting school. Trisha could paint and draw beautifully, but when she looked at words on a page, all she could see was jumble. It took a very special teacher to recognize little Trisha's dyslexia: Mr. Falker, who encouraged her to overcome her reading disability. Patricia Polacco will never forget him, and neither will we.

More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby

From sun-up to sun-down, nine-year-old Booker packs salt at a salt work, but more than anything else, he wants to learn to read. Set in the fall of 1865 in Malden, West Virginia, this story is based on the childhood of Booker T. Washington. Although his stomach rumbles, his real hunger is his intense desire to learn to read.