**GETTING READY TO READ** - *Letter Knowledge* is knowing that letters are different from each other and have different names and sounds. Researchers find that this skill helps children to understand that words are made up of smaller parts and to know the names of those parts.
How to build letter knowledge: talk about things around you, say what is alike and what is different, help children recognize shapes, and point out letters around you.
**Reading Activity for Babies**

Draw shapes in bright colors or cut out shapes from brightly colored paper. Show your baby the shapes and say their names. When you play with a ball say, “The ball is round.”
Toddler Reading Activity:
Play letter matching games. For younger children use only a few letters. As your child learns more letters, you can make the game more difficult by adding upper and lowercase letters or letters with different fonts.
Children love to have their backs rubbed. They also learn by using multiple senses. Try making a shape or letter on your child’s back and having him guess what it is. Don’t forget to add in some tickles just for fun!

Keep up the great work! Don’t forget to bring in your log to get a prize and your next set of pages.
Letter Knowledge

What is it?

Letter knowledge is knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere.

What can you do?

Birth to Two-Year-Olds

- Help your baby and toddler see and feel different shapes as you play. (Say, “The ball is round.”)
- Read alphabet books.
- Point out letters on toys, food boxes, and other objects around the house.
- Have your child play with wooden puzzles or shape sorters.

Two and Three-Year-Olds

- Help your child see different shapes and the shapes of letters.
- Talk about what is the same and what is different between two things.
- Write your child’s name, especially the first letter.
- Make letters from clay or use magnetic letters.
- Point out and name letters when reading alphabet books, signs, or labels.
- Read alphabet books with clear letters and pictures.

Four and Five-Year-Olds

- Write your child’s name.
- Make letters or have your child make letters from clay or use magnetic letters.
- Point out letters when you see them in your everyday life.
- Show your child that the same letter can look different.
- Write words that interest your child (like “dinosaur” or “truck”) using crayons, magnetic letters, or pencil and paper.

Knowing the names and sounds of letters help children figure out how to say written words.

My favorite author is: __________________