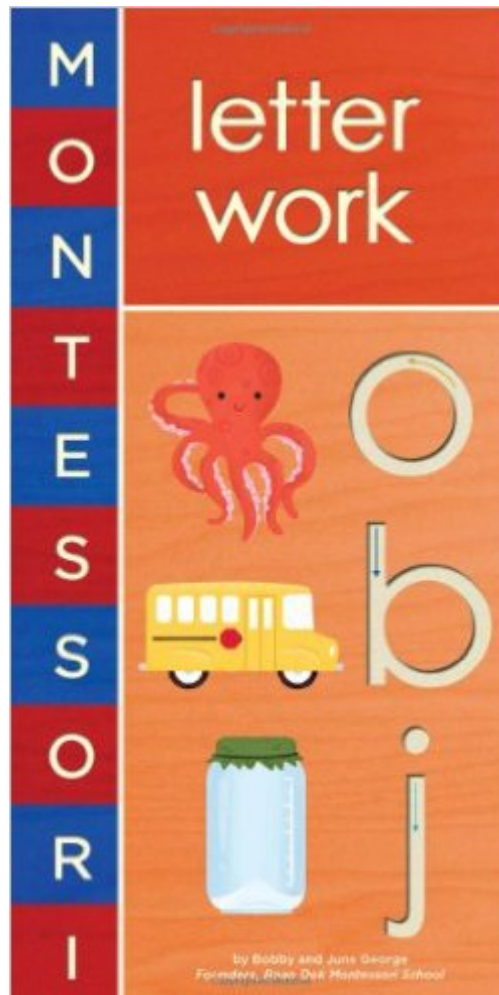


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# Montessori: Letter Work



## Synopsis

These unique board books bring the popular Montessori pedagogy to trade book form for the first time. Using materials and methods common to Montessori classrooms, these interactive board books immerse young children in an aesthetically rich learning experience, while providing parents and caregivers with carefully crafted language to encourage understanding. In Montessori classrooms, students learn to write before they learn to read, so the process is driven by their own words and thoughts before those of others. Letters are taught first as sounds (instead of names), and alphabet tiles encourage children to trace each letter with their fingers. This book honors that tradition by emulating the standard classroom material with touchable, traceable letters and beautiful colors that evoke the elegant simplicity of the Montessori aesthetic. Praise for Montessori: Letter Work "The combination of phonetics and simple retro illustration makes for an excellent entree into pre-literacy." —The Wall Street Journal

## Book Information

Series: Montessori

Board book: 24 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; Ina Brdbk edition (August 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419704117

ISBN-13: 978-1419704116

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (119 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Alphabet #89 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Beginner Readers #153 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

I'm sure the reviews mention this, though of course I was busy and didn't read them, but the letters in the book are very slightly textured and feel raised, rather than indented. Based on the picture I had assumed the pages were double board book pages with the top cut out so the child could keep

their fingers within the letter easily. Not so. The pages are board, and very high quality. I do appreciate that the letters are introduced as sound, rather than name, and they are grouped by shape rather than alphabetically. In other words, the "guh" (g) and "qwuh" (q) come very first. All letters are lowercase. My sister in law, a certified Montessori teacher, looked over the book and she was impressed, though even she was annoyed, as I was, by the A being spelled as "aeh" which stumps me every time, and I find myself glancing at the ant picture to remind myself of the pronunciation. Perhaps that is just me. My sister in law also mentioned that having my child use two fingers to trace the letter will aid in their correct grasp of a pencil. All this aside, it must be said that my four year old loves her book, but also loves to move my hand aside and show me how she likes to do the letter, and proceeds to trace the letter in the most nonsensical fashion. :-P However, I also love the book and will most likely be purchasing others in the series.

I was very skeptical getting the letter work book because of some of the negative reviews, but I am so glad I got it anyway. I think some of the reviews are referring to a different book, bcz all the letters are with the picture. My daughter loved this book and wanted to go through it over and over. I love it's layout, opposed to others, and the pictures are really cute. I do wish the letters had more texture though. I am considering getting glue and adding glitter on them or something to make it more attractive for my daughter to feel. Overall, I love this book, and I can't wait to get the number book when we get our alphabet down. :) Have a great day!

We include this book in our Montessori classrooms. We use it simultaneously with the sandpaper letters, teaching sounds of printed letters. The children love the illustrations and they support the initial sound phonics lessons. We recommend this book to our families for at-home practice. Consistency with correct letter formation and the the focus on letter sounds at home is a wonderful way to support emergent reading. We also love the other books by Bobby and June George in this series - Number Work, Shape Work and Map Work. Great for both school and home!

I am not writing this as an owner of the book but as a reviewer stating an observation. As a parent who has researched phonics instruction from the Orton Gillingham method of correctly pronouncing and teaching phonemes (individual letter sounds in the English language) to ensure the purest and clearest form of instruction for my children, I caution consumers of this book: do not add the vowel sound "-uh" after voicing letter sounds. This book is quite helpful but it instructs the pronunciation of letters in a manner that encourages the "uh" sound after the individual letter's own phoneme sound.

As in "b," which should be practiced and simply voiced as "bbb," not "buh" which can create confusion for some children in learning to decode and read later. If this logic is carried through, then the word bed would be pronounced "buh- -eh -duh" when these extra sounds could be avoided altogether and taught to pronounce it "b -e -d." See this link for a better pronunciation guide:

I purchased this book for my son who is almost two to start learning. It is a nice cardboard style book. It has bright colors and the sandpaper type letters to help the child trace and learn. As I am not used to the montessori style of learning I was confused when the book only had certain letters. I was expecting A to Z and that is not the case. I like the book would have preferred it to have the whole alphabet instead of ones that are thought to be the easiest and best to learn first as it is not the method I plan on using with my son. The book is made well and it should last a long time. It is safe for a two year old to handle.

The only thing I don't like about this book is that the phonetic pronunciation of the letter sounds is not exactly correct, and someone without early literacy experience could go wrong in teaching as a result. For example, the G page says "this is 'guh' as in goat". Children really shouldn't learn to add the "uh" sound to letters like G or D, etc. because it can become confusing when they learn to "sound it out"- duh-o-g and kuh-a-t can be confusing, especially for children who suffer from speech delays. The correct pronunciation is a very short, quick d sound. I suggest if you purchase this book you watch some YouTube videos about how to correctly pronounce letter sounds before diving into teaching the book.

Love that this book has textured letters paired with how to form each one. It's so helpful to young learners. Especially great for kids that are learning lowercase letters and have already mastered upper case, but a great resource even if they haven't! I also appreciate that it's not in alphabetical order so it feels as if I can truly see what my child is learning or not instead of just memorizing and applying the alphabet.

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