



"Why don't you come in and look around?" said his teacher, Ms. Bradley.

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He saw a bookcase full of books, and he met a new friend to play with.

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Print and Book Awareness

Up-and-Down, Across, Slanting, and Curved Lines in Letters

Call on a volunteer to come to the **Big Book** and to point to and name, if he or she can, a letter that is made of only one up-and-down line (*l*). Have another volunteer point to and name, if he or she can, a letter that has both up-and-down and across lines (*H*). Next, have a volunteer find, point to, and name, if he or she can, the capital letter that is made of slanting lines (*W*). Finally, have other volunteers point to and name, if they can, letters that contain curved lines (for example, *e*, *c*, and *d*).

Research in Action

Alphabetic Knowledge

Until children can identify the shape of each letter and discriminate one letter from another, there is no point in introducing them to the alphabetic principle. Unless children can recognize letters quickly and with ease, they cannot begin to appreciate that all words are made up of letters and spelling patterns. On the other hand, once children are able to identify letters quickly, they have little difficulty learning letter sounds and word spellings. (—Marilyn Jager Adams)