

# Reading the Coupons

## Targeted skill

Young children are expected to name and identify each letter of the alphabet and to understand that written words are composed of letters that represent sounds.

## Materials

- ◆ a collection of coupons from magazines or the Sunday newspaper

## What to do

This activity is one that the whole family can do together. Gather an assortment of coupons and ask your child to help you sort them before going shopping. Show your child how to find the name of the product on the coupon (it's usually in larger or bolder print).

As your child identifies the product, help him or her connect the beginning letter with the product's name. Do this aloud so that your child learns to associate the letter's name with its form.

## Extending the activity

- ✦ Encourage your child to group the coupons by category, such as cleaning products, breakfast food, and pets. As your child becomes more familiar with the task, ask him or her to make even more precise groupings. For example, help your child further divide the "cleaning products" category into "washing clothes," "cleaning the bathtub," "washing the car," and so on.
- ✦ Staple together 26 blank pages and write one letter of the alphabet on each one. Give your child glue and help him or her glue the coupons on the appropriate pages. This activity could also be done with 26 small envelopes.

## Letter Recognition

### Reading the Coupons *(continued)*

- ✦ Through this activity your child is learning the letters and their sounds, but you can also help him or her with other skills. Letting your child clip the coupons out with scissors gives him or her an opportunity to practice fine-motor coordination. To practice math skill, ask him or her to say the numerals on the coupons and perhaps organize them in numerical order or group them with like numbers together.
- ✦ If you have more coupons than your family can use, consider sharing them with other friends or family members who might use them. Help your child prepare envelopes to hold the extra coupons and perhaps even address the envelopes to mail them.

#### What your child is practicing

Children need many, many experiences with letters before they remember them. Incorporating this letter practice with a family activity helps your child understand the reason for learning the letters of the alphabet. It also offers him or her a real-world reason for learning letters and their sounds.