



# Vowel Sounds And Hand Movements



**PICTURE ACTIVITY:** The brothers work painting signs. Say the sound (not the name) of the letter on each sign in the picture. Help your child say just the **sound** of /p/, /a/, /f/, /s/, /m/, /b/, and /h/ as she points to that letter on the picture. (Note: Please say the /a/ as in apple.)

**Note to Parent:** You have been doing a lot of listening and echoing. Now we see the letters that make the sounds. The letter is a “symbol” for that sound. In this game, you will show your child a card with a letter on it and make its sound (again, not the letter’s name). She will echo you. Your child is now linking the sound with the written letter that makes that sound. Be patient. Go slow. For most children, this takes lots of practice. Be encouraging as she works with you. Praise your child. Vowels can be very tricky to learn so there are hand movements to go with each to help your child remember.

**You should have:** letter cards. (b, d, f, h, m, p, r, s, t, g, c and vowels a, i, o, u, and e)

## LESSON:

### DAY 1

**Say** We are going to do some echoing with letter cards today. Listen to the sound I say when I hold up a letter card, then echo it back to me. (Use short sounds for vowels: /a/ as in cat, /i/ as in itchy, /o/ as in off, /u/ as in under and /e/ as in egg. Use a hard /g/ sound like in the word girl.

**Do** Hold up the card with the letter **a** on it.

**Say** /a/ /a/ (*Child repeats.*) This letter has a hand movement that we will use to help us remember it. It looks like this.

**Do** Bend your flattened palm at your wrist, do two flicks outward, away from your body.

**Say** Try it with me. /a/ /a/ (with hand movement) (*Child repeats with movement.*)

**Do** Check your child’s ability to make the /a/ sound and its movement together.

**Say** Let’s do some other letters now.

**Do** Hold up the **b** card.

**Say** /b/ /b/ (*Child repeats.*)

**Do** Repeat this process going through the entire deck several times. Tell your child any sounds they don’t know. Then go through the deck again asking your child to give you the sound for each letter.

### DAY 2

**Say** Remember how there was a special hand movement for the letter **a**? Well, there are hand movements to help you remember four other letters too. These letters, along with the letter **a** are called vowels. You know **a**, (Let child show you the hand movement for **a**.) Let’s start with **i** now. Here’s the hand movement for **i**.

**Do** Use hand movements for /i/ and /a/ during this activity. For /i/ thumb draws a line up the neck and the pointer finger lightly taps the nose. For /a/ bend a flattened palm at the wrist, do two quick outward flicks of the palm.

**Say** Repeat after me.

**Do** Hold up the **i** card.

**Say** With movement: /i/ /i/ (Pronounce as in bit.) (*Child echoes with movement.*)

**Do** Hold up the **a** card.

**Say** With movements: /a/ /a/ (Pronounce as in cat.) (*Child echoes with movement.*)

**Do** Mix the **a** and the **i** card into the deck and go through all the sounds.

### DAY 3

**Say** Now that you know the hand movement for /a/ and /i/, I will teach you a new one. Here is the movement for /o/.

**Do** Make your mouth into an open **o** shape and trace the **o** shape around your mouth with your pointer finger as you say /o/ as in the word ox. Now hold up the **o** card.

**Say** /o/ /o/ /o/ (with hand movement) (*Child repeats with movement.*) Now let’s try **u**.

**Do** Hold up the **u** card. Make your hands into two fists. Place one on top of the other. Lift them apart as if you were opening an umbrella.

**Say** /u/ /u/ /u/ (as in umbrella) as you make the motion. (*Child repeats with movement.*)

**Do** Practice sounds and motions for **a**, **i**, and **o** and **u** several times. Then put them into the entire deck.

### DAY 4

**Say** Now we are going to learn the hand sign for **e**.

**Do** Practice sounds and motions for **a**, **i**, **o**, and **u** several times. Then hold up the **e** card.

**Say** The last vowel we will learn is **e**. Here is the movement for the letter **e**. Watch me.

**Do** Take your two pinkie fingers and stretch the corners of your mouth apart as you say /e/ /e/ as in elephant. Have your child repeat your sound and action. When you feel your child knows the sound and motion for each vowel, mix them into the other letter cards. Go through the whole deck. She should do the motion for each vowel when you show her that card.

b

d

f

h

m

p

r

s

t

g

c

a

i

o

u

e