



Vowel Sounds



PICTURE ACTIVITY: At the zoo, what do you see? Point to the elephant. Point to the octopus, the antelope, his itchy tail, and the umbrella.

Note to Parent: Vowels are harder to hear than consonants. It may be because vowels usually come in the middle of words, the hardest sound for a child to hear. So it is helpful to practice hearing vowels separately. Also, having a hand movement for each vowel helps the child remember these sounds.

At school, your child has learned the vowels sounds in this song and the hand motion for each vowel. This song will help you practice with your child.

You should have: letter cards for a, i, o, u, and e, and the music. [\(Here!\)](#)

LESSON:

Say We are going to sing a song about the animals in the picture. It's called "The Vowel Song." Before we do that, let's go over the hand motions for each vowel.

Do Hold up the **a** card.

Say /a /a/ I'm an antelope. (*Child repeats.*)

Do As you say /a /a/ I'm an antelope, bend your flattened palm at your wrist, do two flicks outward, away from your body. Be sure your child does the hand movement when she repeats the /a/ sound.

Do Hold up the **i** card.

Say /i /i /i/ I have an itchy tail. (*Child repeats.*)

Do As you say /i /i /i/, thumb draws a line up the neck and the pointer finger lightly taps the nose. Be sure your child does the hand movement when she repeats.

Do Hold up the **o** card.

Say /o /o /o/ ostrich, octopus, ox (*Child repeats.*)

Do As you say /o /o /o/, make your mouth into an open **o** shape and trace the **o** shape with your pointer finger as you say /o /o /o/ as in the word octopus. Be sure your child does the hand movement when she echoes you. Now hold up the **u** card.

Say /u /u /u/ Up, up, up went my umbrella. (*Child repeats.*)

Do As you say /u /u /u/, hold up the **u** card. Make your hands into two fists. Place one on top of the other and lift them apart, as if you were opening an umbrella. Be sure your child does the hand movement when she repeats. Now hold up the **e** card.

Say The last vowel we'll practice is **e**. /e /e /e/ elephant. (*Child repeats.*)

Do As you say /e /e /e/ take your two pinkie fingers and stretch the corners of your mouth apart. Be sure your child does the hand movement as she repeats.

Say Now let's sing this song about the zoo. We'll make all the hand movements for the vowels as we go. Are you ready?

Do Turn on the music.

Say Let's listen to the song, sing along and make the hand movements as we sing.

Do Play music and make hand movements for /a/ /a/ /a/ I'm an antelope.

/a/ /a/ /a/ I live in Africa.
/a/ /a/ /a/ I'm an antelope.
I live in /A/ /A/ Africa.

Continue to sing along with music:

/i/ /i/ /i/ I have an itchy tail.
/i/ /i/ itchy every inch
/i/ /i/ /i/ I have an itchy tail.
It's itchy every inch.

/o/ Ostrich
/o/ octopus
/o/ ox
said the rain was coming soon.

/u/ /u/ Up went my umbrella.
/u/ /u/ Under my umbrella
/u/ /u/ Up went my umbrella.
Under my umbrella

/e/ /e/ Everyone got wet,
/e/ /e/ even elephants.
/e/ /e/ Everyone got wet,
/e/ /e/ everyone but me.

Do Pause music again at the end of the song.

Say Now let's do a little review of all the vowel sounds.

Do Review the key words for each verse as listed below. Be sure your child does the hand movement with each vowel.

/a/ /a/ antelope (*Child repeats.*)
/a/ /a/ Africa (*Child repeats.*)
/i/ /i/ itch (*Child repeats.*)
/i/ /i/ inch (*Child repeats.*)
/o/ /o/ ostrich (*Child repeats.*)
/o/ /o/ octopus (*Child repeats.*)
/o/ /o/ ox (*Child repeats.*)
/u/ /u/ up (*Child repeats.*)
/u/ /u/ under (*Child repeats.*)
/u/ /u/ umbrella (*Child repeats.*)
/e/ /e/ everyone (*Child repeats.*)
/e/ /e/ elephant (*Child repeats.*)

Be sure to use hand movements for the vowels.

a

e

i

o

u