



Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR):  
0-5 Express

August 2019

## Vroom Video Tip: Secret Handshake



[Vroom Video Tip: Secret Handshake \[total time: 1.5 minutes\]](#)

"Creating and learning a super-secret handshake helps your child remember what is needed to achieve a goal. This is a big step in learning self-control!" -- Vroom

[Download Daily Vroom here.](#)

Children (and adults) need focus and self-control to achieve their goals, especially in a culture that is filled with so many distractions. Strategies involve paying attention, remembering the rules, thinking flexibly, and being patient. Focus and self-control is not learned by being passive but by being active: moving and doing things physically, like a super-secret handshake!

Mastering focus and self-control, the first essential life skill in [Mind in the Making](#), enables children (and adults) to pay attention in ways that empower them to get the most out of what they are learning and improve their overall success in achieving goals.



### **Van Wezel's Friday Fest**

Sarasota  
Friday, August 16  
5:00pm - 9:00pm

### **Literacy Under the Oaks**

Sarasota  
Saturday, September 7  
10:00am - 2:00pm

### **FREE Parenting Program Groups at Forty Carrots Family Center**

**MIND** in the Making



### **FREE WORKSHOPS**

**Mind in the Making  
(MITM)  
Currently Registering:**

Do you know who else finally mastered self-control? After many, many years of impulsively devouring cookies, in 2012, Cookie Monster focused and reached his goal. Check it out!

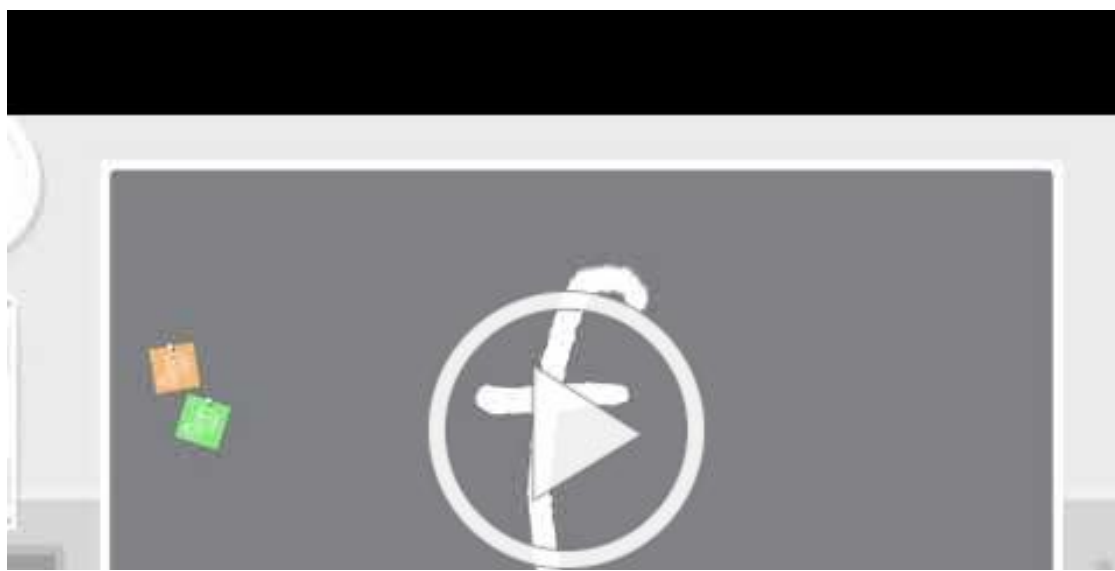


[Sesame Street: Me Want It \(But Me Wait\) \[total time: 3 minutes\]](#)

## The Difference Between Teaching Letter Sounds and the Alphabet

Do you know how to teach letter sounds? It's actually quite different from teaching the alphabet! \*Phonics teaches the relationship between letters and the sounds that they make. It helps the children to work out new words as they read them. For example, the word cat has three letters (c, a, and t). If the child knows the sound for each of the letters c, a and t, they can put them together to read the word cat. Challenge yourself and see how many letter sounds you get right. Then, listen to Usher's alphabet song below for clarification between letter sounds and alphabet sounds.

[Oxford University Press](#)



**Team Proud**  
North Port  
Begins Thursday, Sept 5  
8:30am - 10:30am

**Team Orion**  
North Port  
Saturday, September 28  
Saturday, October 5  
8:00am - 4:00pm

**Team Renew**  
Bradenton  
Begins Thursday, Jan 9  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

**Team Quiz**  
Holmes Beach  
Begins Wednesday, Jan 15  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

## Why participants ♥ Mind in the Making

1. A learning adventure designed to help you and your children thrive.
2. Workshops available in English and Spanish.
3. Convenient dates, times, and locations/new classes.
4. An excellent way to show the ♥ to the little ones in your life.
5. Parents, grandparents, child-care professionals, early-learning educators, and caregivers are welcome
6. FREE workshops and FREE childcare
7. Meals Provided

We hope you will join us in this series of FREE workshops. Each Mind in the Making workshop provides participants the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and practices, discover how children (and adults) learn best, and discuss how to apply the knowledge while learning about all seven essential life skills:

- Focus and Self Control



[Teaching Letter Knowledge to Your Child \[total time: 1 minute 30 seconds\]](#)

- Perspective Taking
- Communicating
- Making Connections
- Critical Thinking
- Taking On Challenges
- Self-Directed Engaged Learning

Mind in the Making is made possible by the [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) with generous support from [The Patterson Foundation](#).

## Tips for Teaching Letter Sounds

1. Start with your child's name. Starting with your child's name will narrow down where to begin, AND it will be more meaningful for your child.

2. Teach the correct letter sounds. It's important that children are learning the appropriate letter sounds right from the start, or they will end up confused when they're beginning to decode words. The video above will help :-)

3. Teach similar sounds at different times. When you're

first starting out, try to separate letters that make similar sounds. For example, B and P make similar sounds, as do T and V. So work on learning those letter sounds at different times. As your kiddo gets a better grasp of each letter's sound, the possibility of confusion will decrease.

4. Teach multiple letters at a time. Reading and writing encompass the entire alphabet, so it's important for children to be exposed to all of the letters and see how letters work together in literacy.

5. Play games and have fun. Some games might include a basic game of bingo where the focus is on the sounds each letter makes. Most kids love playing bingo, so why not incorporate those letter sounds? Picture sorts are another fun and easy game to play when learning about sounds. Place a few letters out on a table, and then have the children sort pictures underneath the appropriate letter based on their initial sounds.

6. Keep reading. Children of all ages, even those who are already reading themselves, benefit from cuddling up and listening to their parents read aloud.



[Usher's Alphabet Song \[total time: 2 minutes\]](#)

[Source: Powerful Mothering](#)

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at [info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net](mailto:info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net).