

Arabic at Home: The First 90 Days

For households where no adult reads Arabic

Abobakr Academy
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Ten to fifteen minutes on most days beats an hour at the weekend. Work down the stages in order and do not skip the vowel marks because they look dull, since that is the stage that decides whether week ten works. **Tick a stage when your child passes the check in the third column, not when the weeks are up.** Those are usually different days, and the gap between them is the most useful thing on this sheet.

WEEKS	WHAT YOUR CHILD WORKS ON	WHAT YOU SHOULD BE SEEING BY THE END	PASSED ON
1-3	Letter names and sounds. From day one, the joined forms alongside the isolated one. Groups of four or five letters, never all twenty eight at once.	They can point at the same letter inside two different words and say it is the same letter. This matters more than reciting the alphabet in order.	☐ date
4-6	The short vowel marks. Every letter now has three sounds instead of one, so the workload roughly triples here. This is where most home attempts quietly stop.	Given a letter with a mark on it, they produce the right syllable without hesitating. Slowly is fine. Guessing is not.	☐ date
7-9	Joining. Two and three letter combinations, then real short words. Still no meanings attached, and that is deliberate.	They sound out a three letter word they have never seen before. If they can only read words they have memorized, they are not reading yet.	☐ date
10-12	The first real text. Short surahs they already know by ear work best, because the ear catches what the eye misses. Al-Fatiha is the usual first page.	They follow a line with a finger and the finger matches the sound. Losing their place is normal; recovering it without help is the sign.	☐ date

Three checks you can run without reading a word of Arabic

The unseen word

Point at a short word *you* choose, not one they offer. Decoding sounds slow and lands right. Memorizing sounds fluent and lands wrong.

The same letter, new place

Ask whether a shape at the start of one word is the same letter as a shape in the middle of another. This tests whether the four forms have landed.

The slow down

Ask for the line at half speed. Guessing sounds smoother than decoding, and halved, you can hear it even with no Arabic at all.

The one part you cannot supervise. Arabic has sounds English does not: three throat sounds all written as h or kh, a light and a heavy s, d and t, and 'ayn, which transliteration writes as an apostrophe and a child simply will not produce. Get those from a teacher or a recitation played daily. Everything else on this sheet you can run yourself.

Free to print, photocopy for a class, and host on your own site. No permission needed.

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