



The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

Letter Knowledge

Children who know the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet, and how to write them, have a much easier time learning to read. Once children can name the letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them.

Here are some ways to help your young child learn about letters:

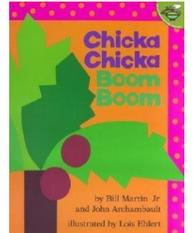
- Talk about and play with shapes! Learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters for babies.
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where she can see it often, and have your child write her name in her own way.
- Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Read alphabet books together. As your child gets older, you can make an alphabet book with him or her.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels. As your child gets older, have your child name the letters.
- Write words that interest your child using crayons or magnetic letters.
- When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters.



By the time your child is five, she should be able to name at least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially the ones in her name.

Featured Book

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom,
by Bill Martin Jr. and John
Archambault

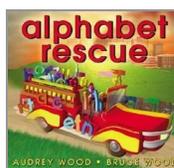
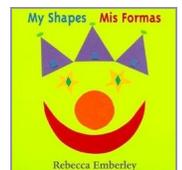


Children will have great fun reading about what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. This fun and colorful book is a pleasure to read with your child. Both lower case and capital letters are used throughout to help your child learn her letters.

More great books to read with your child:

(Birth to 2 years)

My Shapes, My Garden, and My Numbers, by Rebecca Emberley
Color Zoo, by Lois Ehlert
Black and White, by Tana Hoban



(3 to 5 years)

Alphabet Rescue, by Audrey Wood

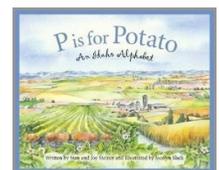
Miss Spider's ABC, by David Kirk

K is for Kissing Kangaroo, by Giles Andreae

Superhero ABC, by Bob McLeod

(Grades K-1)

P is for Potato: An Idaho Alphabet, by Stan and Joy Steiner



Alpha Oops!: The Day Z Went First, by Alethea Kontis

More fun with *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*...



Never too early...Teach your child to recognize his name, from the shapes of the letters to the sounds in his name.

- Put her name on her bedroom door, toys, cup, drawings, blanket, coat, hook etc.
- Write his name in upper and lower case letters, like they will see it at school.

Around the house...Encourage your child to make letters with clay, wet spaghetti noodles and yarn, or form the shapes with their bodies or fingers. Trace letters in salt, sugar, sand, shaving cream, or on a steamy mirror.

Out and About...Play I Spy with the first letter of your child's name. "I spy with my little eye an 'S' on that sign!" "Can you spy other letter S's?"



Arts and crafts... Make an ABC book. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Help your child write an upper and lower case letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Stop when your child loses interest and continue on another day.

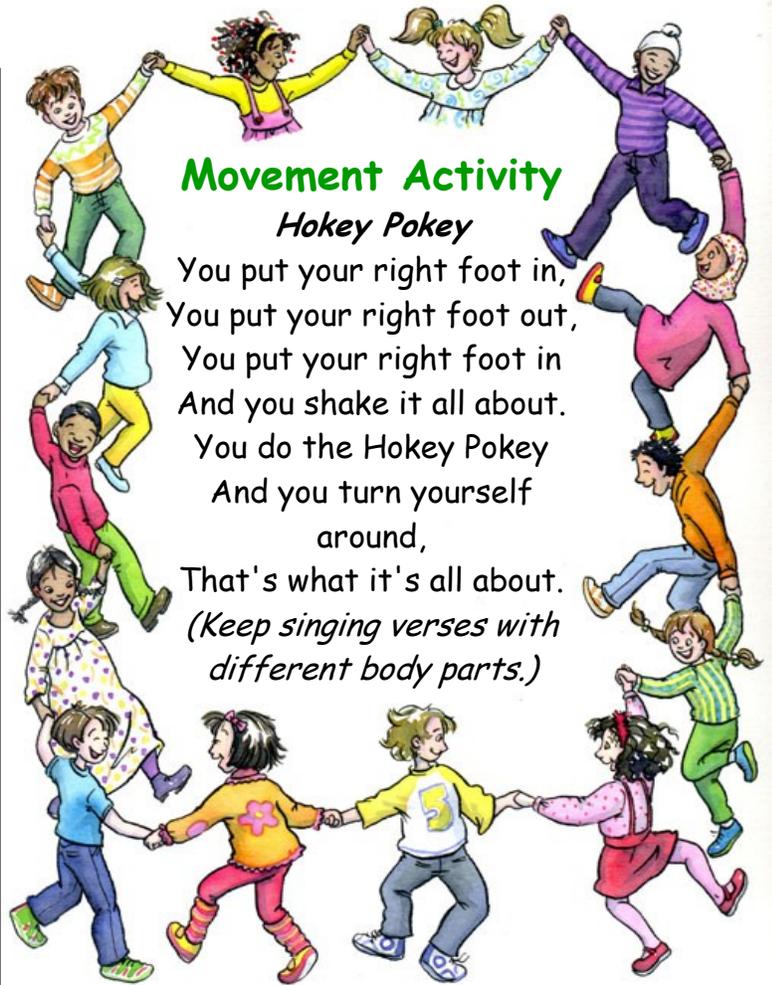


Song

ABC Song

Sing the ABC song to different tunes, such as "London Bridge," "This Old Man," or "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Your child will be able to hear 'LMNOP' more clearly.

Sing the song to the regular tune, but sing it fast and slow, loud and soft.



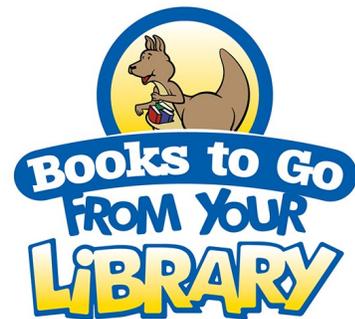
Movement Activity

Hokey Pokey

You put your right foot in,
You put your right foot out,
You put your right foot in
And you shake it all about.
You do the Hokey Pokey
And you turn yourself
around,
That's what it's all about.
(Keep singing verses with
different body parts.)

What your library can do for you...

Your librarian can help you find more books and activities to help your child learn about shapes and letters!



This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Brought to you by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program and your local library.

