



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm



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

## The ABCs

Children who go to kindergarten already knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet have a much easier time learning to read. Knowing the names and shapes of letters is called "letter" or "alphabetic" knowledge.

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

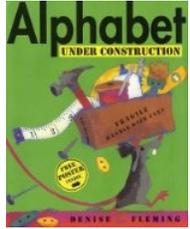
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way.
- Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Read alphabet books together.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs or labels.
- Write words that interest your child (like dinosaur, truck, or mom) using crayons or magnetic letters.
- Children appear to learn letters in an order: letter names first, then letter shapes, and finally letter sounds.



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

## Book of the Month

*Alphabet Under Construction*,  
written and illustrated by  
**Denise Fleming**



Mouse is very busy this month! Each day he works on a letter until he has carved, glued, nailed, tiled and zipped the whole alphabet. Young children love the bright illustrations and cute mouse character!

Author Denise Fleming has written several picture books. You and your child can visit her website at [www.denisefleming.com](http://www.denisefleming.com):



- learn how she illustrates
- see other Fleming books
- play games
- do crafts and activities
- and lots more!

More great ABC books your child will love reading with you:

*K is for Kissing a Cool Kangaroo*,  
Giles Andreae

*Alphabet Rescue*, Audrey Wood

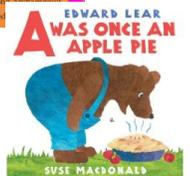
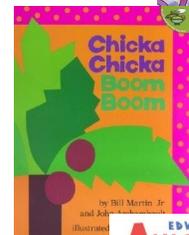
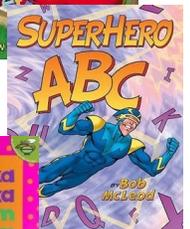
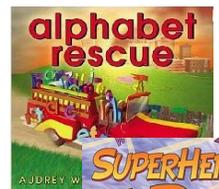
*Miss Spider's ABC*, David Kirk

*Superhero ABC*, by Bob  
McLeod

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

New in 2009:

*A Was Once an Apple Pie*, Edward  
Lear



## More fun with *Alphabet Under Construction*...

**Math Connection**...Talk about the calendar at the end of the book. Help your child set up a calendar in her room on which she can write tasks and special events.

**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 a "B" on that sign!" "Can you spy other letter B's?" You can also play the game with letter sounds. "I spy with my little eye something that begins with a 'buh' sound, just like your name."

**Arts and crafts**...This activity can be done in short 10–15 minute sessions over several weeks. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Write or help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut or tear out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into the book. Invite your child to "read" the book when it is finished!

### Great Winter Books

Snuggle up and get cozy with these favorites...

*Snowmen at Night*, Caralyn Buehner

*The Snowy Day*, Ezra Jack Keats

*Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen

*Snowballs*, Lois Ehlert

*Bear Snores On*, Karma Wilson

*Snow*, Uri Shulevitz

*The Mitten*, Jan Brett



## Song

### Snowkey Pokey

(Sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

You put your right mitten in,  
you take your right mitten out,  
you put your right mitten in  
and you shake it all about.

You do the snowkey pokey  
and you turn yourself around.  
That's what it's all about.

*Additional verses:*

You put your left mitten in . . .

You put your right boot in . . .

You put your left boot in . . .

You put your hat in . . .

You put your snowself in . . .



You can hear the Hokey Pokey tune and watch a video at  
[http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey\\_pokey.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey_pokey.php)

### What your library can do for you...

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

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

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