The Bookworm  Ages 3–5
From your Local Library and Idaho’s Read to Me Program

The ABC’s
Children who go to kindergarten already knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet, and how to write them, 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

Superhero ABC, by Bob McLeod

In this comic book-style picture book, cartoon illustrations introduce a new superhero for each letter of the alphabet. Though one won’t find the likes of Superman or Wonder Woman in this book, children will love listening to the descriptions of new favorites, such as Goo Girl, Power Pup and Jumping Jack.

This book is a favorite of early readers, both boys and girls. It is a great way to practice letter names and sounds, and also to build vocabulary. Each time you read it you will find something new!

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

K is for Kissing a Cool Kangaroo, Giles Andreae
Alphabet Under Construction, Denise Fleming
Alphabet Rescue, Audrey Wood
Miss Spider’s ABC, David Kirk
P is for Potato: an Idaho Alphabet, local authors Stan and Joy Steiner
ABC: Letters in the Library, Bonnie Farmer
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Bill Martin, Jr., John Archambault
More fun with Superhero ABC...

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 tune
and watch a video at
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!

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

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.