



# 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:

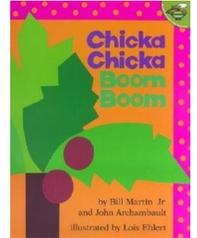
- Talk about and play with shapes! Learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters for babies.
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where she can see it often, and have your child write her name in their 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. As they get older, you can make an alphabet book with them.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels. As they get older, have your child name them.
- 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.

## Book of the Month

***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 his/her letters.

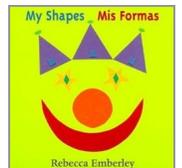
## More great books to read with your child:

**Early Talkers (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



**Talkers (3 to 5 years)**

*Alphabet Rescue*, by Audrey Wood

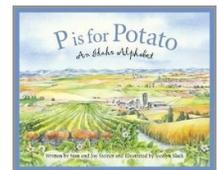
*Miss Spider's ABC*, by David Kirk

*K is for Kissing Kangaroo*, by Giles Andreae

*Superhero ABC*, by Bob McLeod

**Pre-readers (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

*Alphabet Mystery*, by Audrey Wood

## 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 scented crayons or markers and let him smell it.

**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?"



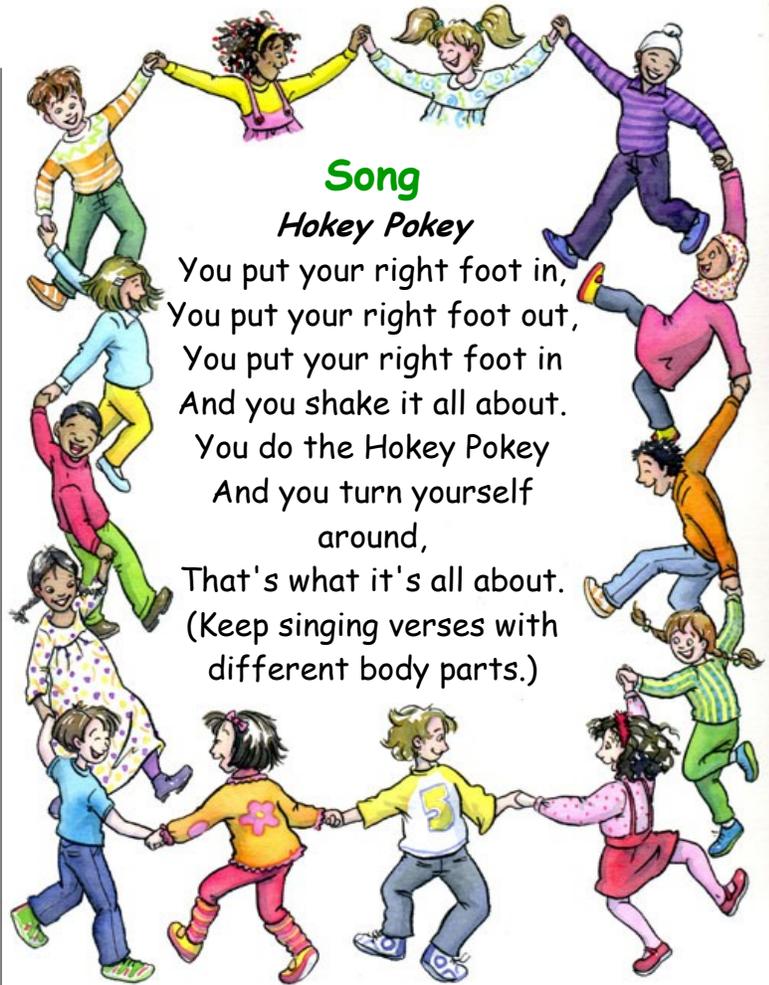
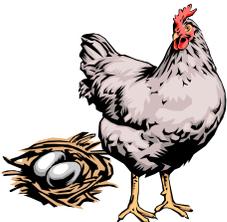
**Arts and crafts**... Make an ABC book. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Help your child write an upper and lower case letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Stop when your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



## Rhyme

### Hickety Pickety, My Black Hen

Hickety pickety, my black hen,  
She lays eggs for gentlemen;  
(Make hands back into a circle)  
Sometimes nine, sometimes ten,  
Hickety pickety, my black hen.  
(Repeat one or two more times.)



## Song

### 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!

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.

