



For grades
K-1

The Bookworm



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

December 2010

The ABCs

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. This is called "letter knowledge." Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them.

Here are some ways you can support your kindergartener:

- Point out letters and have your child name them.
- Make an alphabet book with your child (see page 2)
- Point out letters and sounds on labels, boxes, newspapers, and signs.
- When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters.
- Encourage your child to write emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.

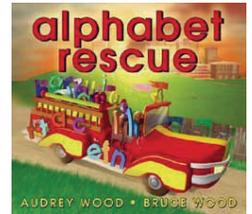
Here are some ways you can support your first grader:

- Say the sounds of letters and ask your child to write the letter or letters that represent the sound.
- Say a word your child knows, then help her write the word the way she hears it.
- Write a word on paper. Cut the letters apart, mix them up, and have your child put them back together.
- Encourage your child to write emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.
- Listen to your child read books out loud.

Book of the Month

***Alphabet Rescue*, by Audrey Wood**

While on vacation in Alphabet City, Little e and the other lowercase letters repair an old fire truck and come to the rescue when a fire engulfs the letter-making factory. Children will have a great time finding the capital and lower-case letters on each page!



Check out the first two *Alphabet* books by Audrey Wood...



Audrey Wood has published lots of books for children. You and your child can visit her website at www.audreywood.com for a list of books, games, and more!

Other great ABC books...

Alpha Oops!: the Day Z Went First, Althea Kontis

Ellsworth's Extraordinary Electric Ears: And Other Amazing Alphabet Anecdotes, Valorie Fisher

P is for Potato: an Idaho Alphabet, Stan and Joy Steiner (Idaho authors)

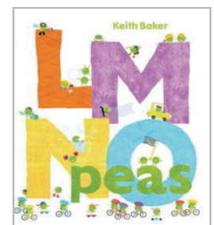
T is for Teachers: a School Alphabet, Steven Layne

Q is for Duck: an Alphabet Guessing Game, Mary Elting, Michael Folsom

Superhero ABC, Bob McLeod

New in 2010:

LMNO Peas, Keith Baker



More fun with *Alphabet Rescue*

Word play... Have your child name a thing he/she likes, such as "cats." Ask your child what sound the word starts with. He/she may need some help. Think of other words that start with the same sound (car, coat, comb, cup). Help your child make a sentence with some of those words (Cats comb their coats with care).

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 lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into the book. Older children can label the pictures, thinking about the sounds they hear. Invite your child to read the book when it is finished!



Did you know...

Idaho public school children in Kindergarten through grade three are given a short reading assessment three times each year.

This assessment is called the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), and it allows teachers and parents to monitor and provide support to young children as they learn to read.

On the January IRI, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters, and know the sounds of some consonants and vowels. First grade children are expected to know the sounds of all the consonants and vowels, and be able to read most of the words in a first-grade passage.

Your child's teacher can tell you more about mid-year reading expectations, and how to support your child at home. Reading *Alphabet Rescue* with your child is a great way to practice naming letters and letter sounds!

Song

Letter Song, from DLTk's Sites

(tune of John, Jacob, Jingleheimer Schmidt)

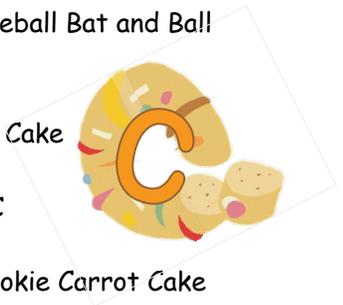
Aunt Angie's Alligator-pie
It has some apples, too
For words that start with A
The people shout, Hurray!
Words like Aunt Annie's Alligator-pie
A A A A A A



Big Bobby's Baseball Bat and Ball
He loves to play all day
For words that start with B
The people run to see!
Words like Big Bobby's Baseball Bat and Ball
B B B B B B



Cute Cathy's Cookie Carrot Cake
She loves to snack all day
For words that start with C
The people run to see!
Words like Cute Cathy's Cookie Carrot Cake
C C C C C C



For the lyrics of the other letters, visit:

<http://www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/songs>

What your library can do for you...

Your library has lots of books, DVDs, and music CDs to help celebrate the holidays!

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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