



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



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

December 2010

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 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.

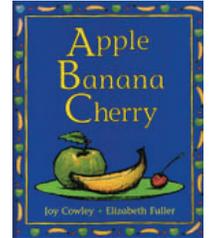


By the time your child is five, he or she should be able to name at least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially the ones in his or her name.

Book of the Month

Apple Banana Cherry, by Joy Cowley

Apple! Banana! Cherry! Come with me! Let's have fun with our ABCs. Joy Cowley's wonderful read-aloud rhymes make learning the alphabet lots of fun for young readers.



Joy Cowley began to write for children as a way to help her son with his reading. Since then, she has written over 400 books for early readers. She is well-known for her *Mrs. Wishy-Washy* series, as well as the award-winning *The Red-Eyed Tree Frog*.

Other great ABC books...

Alphabet Under Construction, Denise Fleming

K is for Kissing a Cool Kangaroo, Giles Andreae

Alphabet Rescue, Audrey Wood

Superhero ABC, by Bob McLeod

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

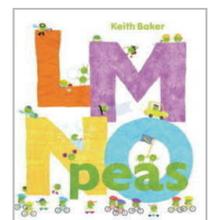
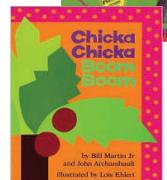
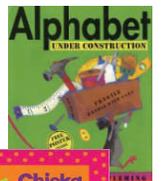
A Was Once an Apple Pie, Edward Lear

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z, Lois Ehlert

New in 2010:

LMNO Peas, Keith Baker

Goodnight Moon ABC, Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd



More fun with *Apple Banana Cherry*

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."

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. Here's an easy play-doh recipe:

Mix: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1-1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar, and 1-1/2 teaspoons vegetable oil.

Slowly stir in 2 cups of colored water (use food coloring to color). Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until it turns into dough. Form it into a ball and store it in a covered container.



A word about the ABC song...

ABCDEF G, HIJK ElemenPea
QRS, TUV, W, X, Y and Z

Parents often think their child "knows" the alphabet because they can sing the ABC song and/or recite the alphabet, or because the child can point to the letters in order while singing or saying the alphabet.

Being able to do those things can show that a child has some knowledge about the alphabet, but children with good letter knowledge can identify letters in any order. Try some of these activities with your child, and help her slow down while singing the ABC song.

Song

Apples and Bananas



To hear the tune go to:

www.songsforteaching.com/b/applesandbananas.htm

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas
I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas

Now change the vowel sound to A:

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays
I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

Now change the vowel sound to E:

I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees
I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

Now change the vowel sound to I:

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis
I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis

Now change the vowel sound to O:

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos
I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos

Now change the vowel sound to U:

I like to oot, oot, oot oo-pples and boo-noo-noos
I like to oot, oot, oot oo-pples and boo-noo-noos

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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