The ABC’s

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” or “alphabetic” knowledge. Once children can name the 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 often: emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.

Here are some ways you can support your first or second 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 often: emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.
- Listen to your child read books out loud.

Book of the Month

ABC of Jobs, by Roger Priddy

It takes all kinds of jobs to make our country work. This alphabet book features 26 of them, from airline pilot to zoo keeper. These are real people talking about their real jobs. Your child will enjoy discovering what each job is about, the skills they need and the people they help.

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

A Isn’t for Fox: an Isn’t Alphabet, Wendy Ulmer
Alpha Oops!: the Day Z Went First, Alethea Kontis
Alphabet Rescue, Audrey Wood
26 Letters and 99 Cents, Tana Hoban
P is for Potato: an Idaho Alphabet, local authors Stan and Joy Steiner
T is for Teachers: a School Alphabet, Steven Layne
Q is for Duck: an Alphabet Guessing Game, Mary Elting
More fun with *ABC of Jobs*...  

**Talk about it...** Help your child make connections between the jobs in the book and people he or she know who do those jobs.

**Out and about...** Play I Spy with letters and sounds. “I spy with my little eye a ‘B’ on that sign!” “Can you spy other letter B’s?” With sounds: “I spy with my little eye something that begins with a ‘buh’ sound.” With older children, focus on blends of letters (dr, ch, str), ending sounds, or tricky vowel sounds (oo, ow, aw).

**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 book. Older children can label the pictures, thinking about the sounds they hear. 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  
*Snow Trucking*, Jon Scieszka  
*Bear Snores On*, Karma Wilson  
*Snow*, Uri Shulevitz  
*The Mitten*, Jan Brett

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**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

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

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

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