



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



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

December 2011

The ABCs

This month's early literacy skill is "letter knowledge," which is knowing the names and shapes of letters. 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.

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.

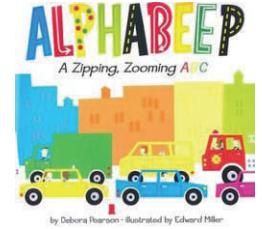
By the time your child is five, he or she should be able to name at least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially the ones in his or her name.



Book of the Month

Alphabeep: A Zipping, Zooming ABC, by Deborah Pearson

From Ambulance to Zamboni, the vehicles in this book zip, zoom, beep, and vroom their way through the streets of a noisy town. This is a fun way for children to practice their letters!



Also by Deborah Pearson:



More ABC Books

LMNO Peas, by Keith Baker

B Is for Bulldozer: A Construction ABC, by June Sobel

ABC I Like Me! by Nancy Carlson

Eating the Alphabet, by Lois Ehlert

Max's ABC, by Rosemary Wells

The Icky Bug Alphabet Book, by Jerry Palotta

A Fabulous Fair Alphabet, by Debra Frasier

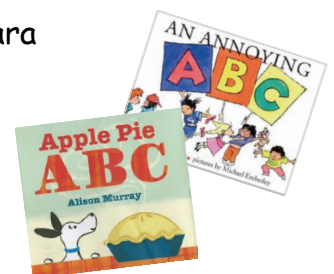
The Farm Alphabet Book, by Jane Miller

New in 2011:

An Annoying ABC, by Barbara Bottner

ABC Kids, by Simon Basher

Apple Pie ABC, by Alison Murray



More fun with *Alphabeep...*

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...

**A B C D E F G, H I J K ElemenPea
Q R S, T U V, 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 to sing with your child

Pete the Pilot



To the tune of "Old MacDonald"
(Pretend to be driving each of the vehicles by doing each of the actions)

Pete the pilot has a plane,
Zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom.
And on the plane there are some wings,
Zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom.

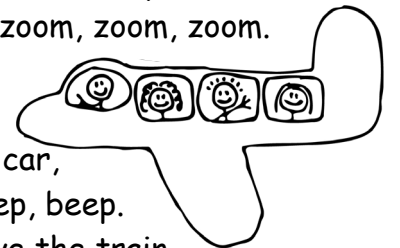
With a zoom, zoom, here,
And a zoom, zoom, there,
Here a zoom, there a zoom,
Everywhere a zoom-zoom,
Pete the pilot has a plane,



Zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom.

Additional verses:

Deb the driver has a car,
Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep.
Train conductors drive the train
Chug, chug, chug, chug, chug.



From *The Big Book
of Stories, Songs,
and Sing-Alongs*

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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