



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



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

March 2014

The ABCs

Children who go to kindergarten 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" or "alphabetic" 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.

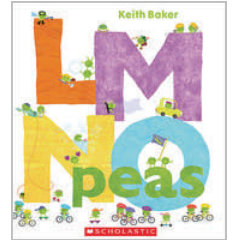


By the time your child begins kindergarten he or she should know most of the letters of the alphabet, especially those in his or her name.

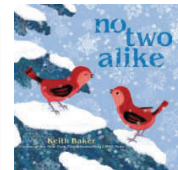
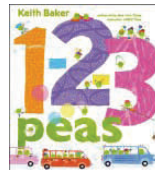
Book of the Month

LMNO Peas, by Keith Baker

Peas that pose as people are the star of this book. Each letter of the alphabet focuses on jobs that start with that letter- "A" for acrobat, astronaut and artist. The colorful letters and fun artwork will draw your child's attention to the possibilities of what they can be when they grow up- all while learning the alphabet.



Other fun books by Keith Baker:



More alphabet books...

ABC, I Like Me! by Nancy Carlson

Alphabet Rescue, by Audrey Wood

Alphabet Under Construction, by Denise Fleming

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

Eating the Alphabet, by Lois Ehlert

I Spy Letters, by Jean Marzollo

I Stink! by Kate McMullan

The Icky Bug Alphabet Book, by Jerry Palotta

Shout! Shout it Out! by Denise Fleming

More fun with *LMNO Peas...*

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, 1½ teaspoons cream of tartar, and 1 to 2 tablespoons 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 the activities in this newsletter with your child, and help her slow down while singing the ABC song.

Try this song:

Fast ABCs

(Start this song by slapping your hands on your thighs, and sing quickly)

ABCDEFGHIJKLM,

(clap, clap)

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ.

Jack and Jill went up the hill

To fetch a pail of water...

Jack fell down and broke his crown

And Jill came tumbling after!

Oh!

ABCDEFGHIJKLM,

(clap, clap)

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ.



From *The Big Book of Stories,*

Songs, and Sing-Alongs, by Beth Maddigan

What your library can do for you...

Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!

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