



Age Group
Kinders

The Bookworm

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

December 2011

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 early literacy skill is called "letter knowledge." Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them. At this age they also begin learning how to write the letters.

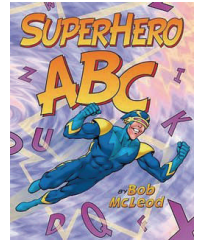
Here are some ways you can support your kindergartener:

- Point out letters and have your child name them.
- Make an alphabet book with your child using pictures from old magazines.
- Point out letters and sounds on labels, boxes, newspapers, and signs.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Encourage your child to make letters with clay, wet spaghetti noodles, yarn, or form the shapes with their bodies or fingers. Trace letters in salt, sugar, sand, shaving cream, or on a steamy mirror (see page 2 for a play-doh recipe).
- 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.
- Read alphabet books with your child.

Book of the Month

Superhero ABC, by Bob McLeod

Silly and zany, and armed with the most unusual skills, these heroes are out to save the world—one letter at a time! Each time you read this book with your child you'll find new things to point out and enjoy.



Author Bob McLeod has illustrated comic books for both Marvel and DC Comics. This is his first children's book.

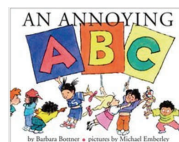
More ABC Books

LMNO Peas, by Keith Baker

Absolutely Awful Alphabet, by Mordicai Gerstein

Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in English and Spanish, by Alma Flor Ada

New in 2011:



An Annoying ABC, by Barbara Bottner

ABC Kids, by Simon Basher

If your child enjoyed the comic-book style of Superhero ABC, check these books out:

Traction Man Is Here! and *Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog*, by Mini Grey

Captain Raptor and the Moon Mystery, by Kevin O'Malley



More fun with *Superhero ABC*

Math connection... How many As on the A page? (or Bs on the B page) Help your child find and count.

In the kitchen... 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.

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."

Tech time... Visit author Bob McLeod's *Superhero ABC* website for bookmarks, mazes, and coloring pages with your favorite heroes.

www.bobmcleod.com/activities.html

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

A word about the ABC song...

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.

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.

Your child's teacher can tell you more about mid-year reading expectations and how to support your child at home.

Reading *Superhero ABC* with your child is a great way to practice naming letters and letter sounds!

What your library can do for you...

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

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