



Age Group  
**Kinders**

# The Bookworm



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

March 2014

## The ABCs

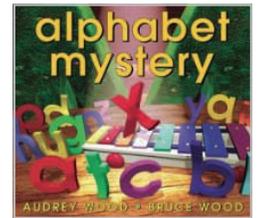
Children who know the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet and how to write them have a much easier time learning to read. This early literacy skill is called "letter knowledge." Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them. At this age they also begin learning how to write the letters.

Here are some ways you can support your kindergartener at home:

- 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 dough 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

***Alphabet Mystery***, by  
**Audrey Wood**, pictures  
by **Bruce Wood**



Little x is missing from Charley's Alphabet, and the other lowercase letters go off to solve the mystery of his disappearance, learning in the end how valuable a little x can be.

Audrey and Bruce Wood have published lots of



books for children. You and your child can visit their website at [www.audreywood.com](http://www.audreywood.com)

for a list of books, games and activities, and lots more!

### Author books

*Alphabet Mystery*

*Alphabet Adventure*

*The Big Hungry Bear*

*Birdsong*

*The Big Blue Sea*

*The Napping House*

*Piggies*

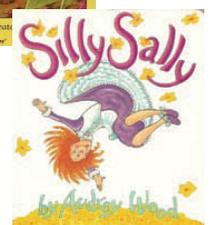
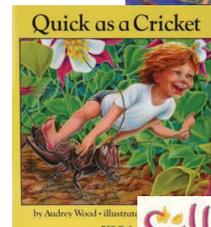
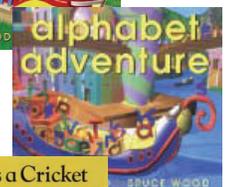
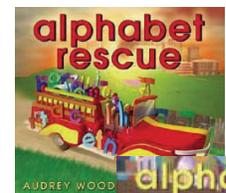
*Quick as a Cricket*

*Rude Giants*

*Silly Sally*

*Scaredy Cats*

*King Bidgood's in the Bathtub*



## More fun with *Alphabet Mystery*

**Arts and crafts...** This activity can be done in short 10–15 minute sessions over several weeks. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Write or help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut or tear out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into the book. Invite your child to “read” the book when it is finished!

**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.” If your child knows the beginning sounds pretty well, play the game with ending sounds.

### Did you know...?

Idaho public school children in kindergarten through 3rd Grade are given a short reading assessment each year in the fall and spring. 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.

By March/April, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters and know the sounds of several consonants and vowels.

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

Reading alphabet books with your child is a great way to practice naming letters and letter sounds!

## 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!

*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.*

*Printed 2014*

